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MICHIGAN WILDERNESS HERITAGE ACT OF 1987

RECORD ONLY:

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS, FAMILY FARMS, AND ENERGY

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDREDTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

H.R. 148

MARCH 18, 1987

Serial No. 100-35

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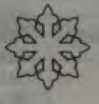

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MICHIGAN WILDERNESS HERITAGE ACT OF 1987

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1987

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS, FAMILY FARMS, AND ENERGY,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 1 o'clock p.m., Hon. Harold L. Volkmer (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Stallings, Johnson, Jontz, Smith, Schuette, and Holloway.

Staff present: Katherine A. Hughes, clerk; Timothy P. De Coster, James R. Lyons, and John Conrad.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. HAROLD L. VOLKMER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Mr. VOLKMER. The subcommittee will come to order.

The subcommittee is meeting today for a hearing on H.R. 148, the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act of 1987. This bill was introduced January 6 by Representative Dale Kildee, and a number of his colleagues, Democrat and Republican, from Michigan.

The bill was jointly referred to the Interior Committee and to the Agriculture Committee. H.R. 148 would designate about 92,000 acres of National Forest System lands as wilderness, and would release about 22,000 acres studied in the second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation. If approved, these wilderness areas would be the first so designated in the State of Michigan.

Our colleagues who were members of this committee in the 99th Congress may recall that a similar bill passed the House under Suspension of the Rules in 1985.

We welcome today two colleagues from Michigan who are among the original sponsors of H.R. 148, Congressman Dale Kildee and Congressman Carl Pursell. In addition, prepared statements may be submitted for the record later by other members from Michigan.

We will also hear this afternoon from Mr. George Leonard, Associate Chief, Forest Service; Mr. John Roethele from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and from a panel of wilderness advocates from Michigan.

[Attachments and H.R. 148 follow:]

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AREAS TO BE DESIGNATED AS WILDERNESS BY H.R. 148

AREA	NATIONAL FOREST	ACREAGE
*# Sylvania	Ottawa	18,330
*# Sturgeon River Gorge	Ottawa	14,850
# McCormick	Ottawa	16,850
# Rock River Canyon	Hiawatha	4,640
# Big Island Lakes	Hiawatha	5,840
Delirium	Hiawatha	11,870
*# Mackinaw (Carp River)	Hiawatha	12,230
*# Horseshoe Bay	Hiawatha	3,790
* Les Cheneaux (Govt. Is.)	Hiawatha	214
*# Round Island	Hiawatha	378
*# Nordhouse Dunes	Huron-Manistee	3,450
		92,442

* Indicates that these areas were recommended for wilderness designation by the U.S. Forest Service in the RARE II study.

# Indicates that these areas have been recommended in the Forest Service's forest management plans for the three National Forests.

RARE II STUDY AREAS TO BE RELEASED BY H.R. 148

AREAS	NATIONAL FOREST	ACREAGE
Cascade Falls	Ottawa	9,480
Fibre	Hiawatha	8,285
Baar Swamp	Huron-Manistee	4,354
		22,119

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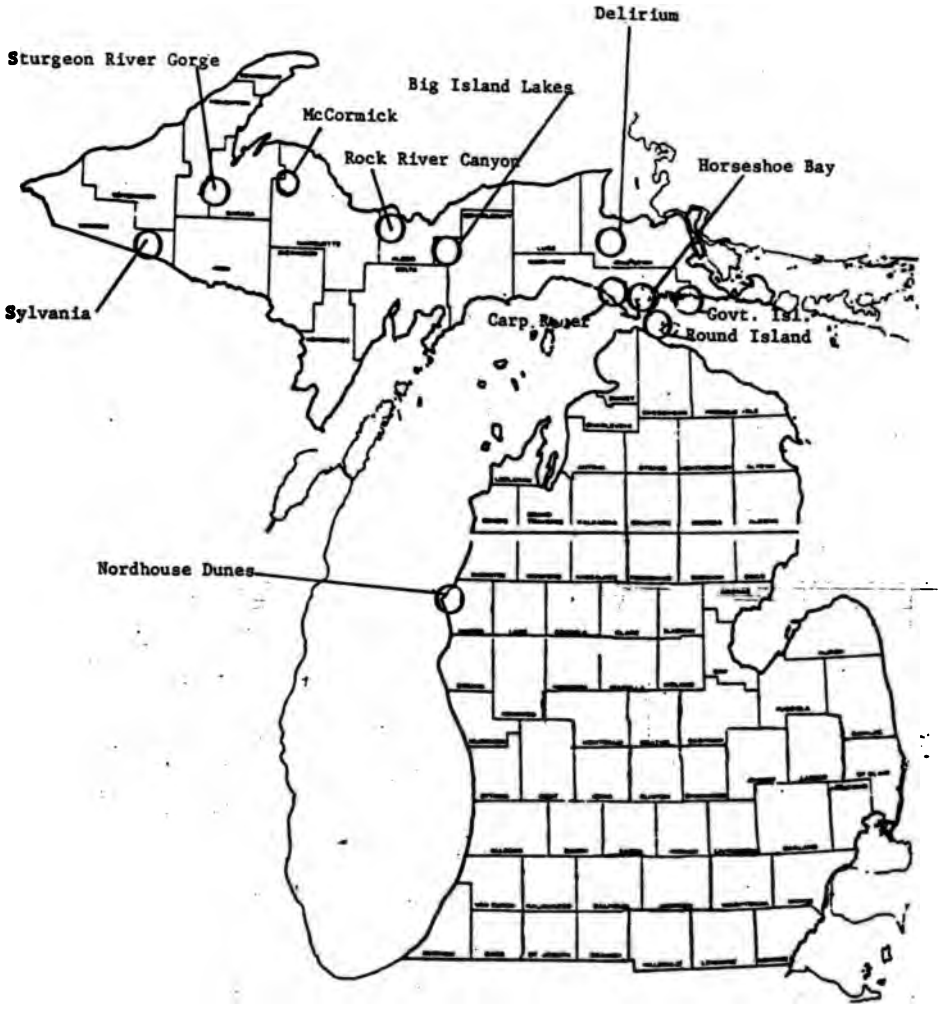

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100TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 148

To designate certain public lands in the State of Michigan as wilderness, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 1987

Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. FORD of Michigan, Mr. TRAXLER, Mr. CARR, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. PURSELL, Mr. WOLPE, Mr. CROCKETT, Mr. HENRY, Mr. BONIOR of Michigan, Mr. HERTEL, and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan) introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs and Agriculture

---

A BILL

To designate certain public lands in the State of Michigan as wilderness, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act of 1987".

SEC. 2. In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131), the following lands in the State of Michigan are hereby designated as wilderness, and therefore as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System—

★

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(a) "subject to valid existing rights and reasonable access to exercise such rights" certain lands in the Manistee National Forest, comprising approximately three thousand four hundred and fifty acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness—Proposed", dated January 1987, and which shall be known as the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness;

(b) certain lands in the Ottawa National Forest, comprising approximately eighteen thousand three hundred and twenty five acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Sylvania Wilderness—Proposed", dated January 1987, and which shall be known as the Sylvania Wilderness;

(c) certain lands in the Ottawa National Forest, comprising approximately fourteen thousand eight hundred and fifty acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness—Proposed", dated January 1987, and which shall be known as the Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness;

(d) certain lands in the Hiawatha National Forest, comprising approximately four thousand six hundred and forty acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Rock River Canyon Wilderness—Proposed", dated January 1987, and which shall be known as the Rock River Canyon Wilderness;

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(e) certain lands in the Hiawatha National Forest, comprising approximately five thousand eight hundred and forty acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Big Island Lake Wilderness—Proposed", dated January 1987, and which shall be known as the Big Island Lake Wilderness;

(f) certain lands in the Hiawatha National Forest, comprising approximately twelve thousand two hundred and thirty acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Mackinac Wilderness—Proposed", dated January 1987, and which shall be known as the Mackinac Wilderness;

(g) certain lands in the Hiawatha National Forest, comprising approximately three thousand seven hundred and ninety acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Horseshoe Bay Wilderness—Proposed", dated January 1987, and shall be known as the Horseshoe Bay Wilderness;

(h) certain lands in the Hiawatha National Forest, comprising approximately eleven thousand eight hundred and seventy acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Delirium Wilderness—Proposed", dated January 1987, and which shall be known as the Delirium Wilderness;

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(i) certain lands in the Hiawatha National Forest, comprising approximately two hundred and fourteen acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Les Cheneaux Wilderness—Proposed", dated January 1987, and which shall be known as the Les Cheneaux Wilderness;

(j) certain lands in the Hiawatha National Forest, comprising approximately three hundred and seventy-seven acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Round Island Wilderness—Proposed", dated January 1987, and which shall be known as the Round Island Wilderness;

(k) certain lands in the Ottawa National Forest, comprising approximately sixteen thousand eight hundred and fifty acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "McCormick Wilderness—Proposed", dated January 1987, and which shall be known as the McCormick Wilderness.

SEC. 3. As soon as practicable after this Act takes effect, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file maps and legal descriptions of each wilderness area designated by this Act with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, House of Representatives, and each such map and legal description shall have the same force and

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effect as if included in this Act: *Provided, however,* That correction of clerical and typographical errors in such legal descriptions and maps may be made. Each such map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

SEC. 4. Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area designated by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness areas except that with respect to any area designated in this Act, any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act of 1964 shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this Act.

SEC. 5. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) the Department of Agriculture has completed the second roadless area review and evaluation program (RARE II); and

(2) the Congress has made its own review and examination of National Forest System roadless areas in the State of Michigan and of the environmental impacts associated with alternative allocations of such areas.

(b) On the basis of such review, the Congress hereby determines and directs that—

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(1) without passing on the question of the legal and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environmental statement (dated January 1979) with respect to National Forest System lands in the State of Michigan; such statement shall not be subject to judicial review with respect to National Forest System lands in the State of Michigan;

(2) with respect to the National Forest System lands in the State of Michigan which were reviewed by the Department of Agriculture in the second roadless area review and evaluation (RARE II) and those lands referred to in subsection (d), that review and evaluation or reference shall be deemed for the purposes of the initial land management plans required for such lands by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, to be an adequate consideration of the suitability of such lands for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and the Department of Agriculture shall not be required to review the wilderness option prior to the revisions of the plans, but shall review the wilderness option when the plans are revised, which revisions will ordinarily occur on a ten-year cycle, or at least every fifteen years, unless, prior to such time, the Secretary

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of Agriculture finds that conditions in a unit have significantly changed;

(3) areas in the State of Michigan reviewed in such final environmental statement or referenced in subsection (d) and not designated wilderness upon enactment of this Act shall be managed for multiple use in accordance with land management plans pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976: *Provided*, That such areas need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of the initial land management plans;

(4) in the event that revised land management plans in the State of Michigan are implemented pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law, areas not recommended for wilderness designation need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of such plans, and areas recommended for wilderness designation shall be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability

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for wilderness designation as may be required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law; and

(5) unless expressly authorized by Congress, the Department of Agriculture shall not conduct any further statewide roadless area review and evaluation of National Forest System lands in the State of Michigan for the purpose of determining their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(c) As used in this section, and as provided in section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the term "revision" shall not include an "amendment" to a plan.

(d) The provisions of this section shall also apply to National Forest System roadless lands in the State of Michigan which are less than five thousand acres in size.

SEC. 6. Congress does not intend that designation of wilderness areas in the State of Michigan lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around each wilderness area. The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from areas within the wilderness shall not,

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of itself, preclude such activities or uses up to the boundary of the wilderness.

SEC. 7. As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act, nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State of Michigan with respect to wildlife and fish in the national forests in Michigan.

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Mr. VOLKMER. At this time I will recognize the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Schuette, for a statement.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. BILL SCHUETTE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. SCHUETTE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I welcome the opportunity today to say a few words at this hearing that we have scheduled, and I am pleased that our subcommittee, under your leadership, Mr. Volkmer, has scheduled this meeting to discuss the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act introduced by my friend and colleague from Michigan, Mr. Kildee. I am pleased to see him, plus my friend and colleague Mr. Pursell here this afternoon, and I am looking forward to hearing their statements, certainly, and also our other representatives concerned about Michigan's wilderness areas.

I see this hearing as another example of our legislative duties as members of the Subcommittee on Forests, Family Farms, and Energy, to investigate proposed wilderness legislation.

It is important that we have the chance to hear testimony on H.R. 148 from our honored witnesses and guests. When the time comes, I hope we will all be better informed so that we can make informed and reasoned decisions to the best benefit of the residents of Michigan.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. VOLKMER. Thank you, Mr. Schuette.

Our first two witnesses are the Honorable Dale Kildee, Member of Congress, and also the Honorable Carl Pursell, Member of Congress, both from Michigan. Would you please take your places at the table. Your statements will be made a part of the record in full. You may either review the statement in full or summarize, however you so desire.

Mr. Kildee.

STATEMENT OF HON. DALE E. KILDEE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will summarize my remarks. I want to thank you for holding this hearing on H.R. 148, the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act of 1987.

As chairman myself of a subcommittee on the Education and Labor Committee, I know how difficult it can be to pull together a hearing on such short notice, and I really appreciate your cooperation.

I also appreciate the fact that you have scheduled this hearing the same week as the hearing of the Interior Committee, so the witnesses who have traveled from Michigan can testify before both of those committees, and I sincerely appreciate your cooperation.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to submit for the record the written testimony in support of H.R. 148 by two of the original cosponsors of the bill, Representatives David Bonior and Paul Henry.

[The prepared statements of Mr. Bonior and Mr. Henry appear at the conclusion of the hearing.]

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Mr. KILDEE. I also have a statement from a former colleague of ours, Governor James Blanchard, who has been very supportive of this legislation from the very beginning.

[The prepared statement of Governor Blanchard appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. KILDEE. And I am very pleased that Representative Carl Pursell, who served with me in the Michigan legislature, and who is a cosponsor of this bill, was able to take time out from his very busy schedule as a member of the Appropriations Committee to testify in person on this bill.

This bill is virtually identical to the bill which the House passed overwhelmingly in the 99th Congress. H.R. 148 designates as National Forest wilderness some 92,000 acres—that's less than 3.3 percent of Michigan's three national forests.

Michigan, with more Forest Service land than any other State east of the Mississippi River, currently has no National Forest wilderness.

Mr. Chairman, from the very beginning I believe that we needed to strike a balance with this legislation between the conservation and development of Michigan's natural resources. I believe that the tremendous support for H.R. 148, from 11 of my colleagues in the Michigan delegation, both Democrats and Republicans, from Governor Blanchard, from national and local environmental groups, and the timber industry in Michigan, are ample proof that we have succeeded in achieving that balance.

I am particularly pleased that the timber industry has endorsed my bill. In April 1985, the Michigan Forest Products Industry Development Council voted 14 to 1 in support of H.R. 148. The council, composed of representatives of the major timber-producing and timber-using companies in Michigan, advises Governor Blanchard in his efforts to expand Michigan's timber industry.

Mr. Chairman, with the subcommittee's permission, I would like to make the council's letter and resolution part of the record, along with my prepared statement.

During meetings held in my office earlier this year, representatives of Michigan's timber industry reiterated their support of H.R. 148 and their strong desire to see the wilderness issue in Michigan's three National Forests resolved as soon as possible.

The timber industry in Michigan realizes that the designation of these 11 areas as wilderness will have a negligible impact on their operations.

Moreover, the bill will release some 22,000 acres for potential timber harvest and provide the industry with the certitude they need to plan their future operations.

Mr. Chairman, some people have questioned the need for a wilderness designation for these 11 unique areas in Michigan. They cite the authority the Forest Service has to administer the area in a manner similar to wilderness.

However, as you and I both know, Mr. Chairman, this Congress is the board of directors for this Nation. We must set policy for the executive agencies to implement.

By approving H.R. 148, the Congress will set aside these 11 areas to be preserved much as they came from the hand of God. They will be protected, not only from manmade disturbances, but also

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from changes in the bureaucratic whims of each new administration here in Washington.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing on Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act of 1987.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Kildee appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. VOLKMER. Thank you, Mr. Kildee.

Before I proceed to Mr. Pursell, I just want to say that if you provide the statements of the other members and the Governor, my good friend, Jim Blanchard, to the clerk, they will be made a part of the record.

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you. Mr. Mansour of my staff will do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. VOLKMER. At this time we will recognize Mr. Pursell.

STATEMENT OF HON. CARL D. PURSELL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. PURSELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Congressman Schuette from Michigan. I am honored to be present at this subcommittee hearing and I'm delighted that you're both here today.

When we looked at this legislation the first time a while back, the Agriculture Committee did not have an opportunity to look at it, so I appreciate your interest in the bill, H.R. 148.

I, too, want to congratulate Congressman Kildee on his leadership on this excellent piece of work. When Dale and I served in the Michigan senate together, we worked on environmental issues under then-Governor Bill Milliken. I would say that both Governor Milliken and the present Governor, Jim Blanchard, would unanimously support this piece of legislation, and I'd like to have that in the record.

I just want to make two points, since my full statement will be printed in the record. This is an important piece of legislation for Michigan. According to the Sierra Club, there is currently not a single acre of Michigan's vast National Forest tracts which is part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. This system would necessarily protect our wilderness area. And wilderness areas which are in the bill are outside of the National Forest are overused.

For instance, the fragile area of Isle Royal National Park, of the Keweenaw Peninsula in Lake Superior where I have been many times with my family, recently has had to compete with overuse, despite being rather remote. So not only is it a Great Lake Island, but is also far removed from any population center on the mainland as well, and that's a clear testimony to the genuine necessity for more wilderness area in Michigan.

We are not talking here about a lot of land. The total acreage is just over 90,000, as you know, and that represents under one-third of 1 percent of Michigan's total land base. The great majority of this proposal is in the Upper Peninsula, and we, of course, as Michiganders who use the Upper Peninsula, appreciate one of the great, beautiful areas of the world.

My second point I wanted to make is in terms of balance. This bill can produce not only an economic advantage for what I would

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call enhanced tourist business, but I think frankly it's a good balance of environmental protection, and sensible economic development. I think those of us, Dale and I and other members in the Michigan legislature, who have worked on environmental legislation in the past—and I was the author of the Michigan Resource Recovery Act—spent a great deal of time in a bipartisan way to strike an appropriate balance between economic development and environmental concerns.

I think the need for various particular tourist areas, such as cross-country skiing and all the activities that are nonmotorized need a place and a priority in our State. I'm especially proud of the very sensitive balance between the environmental and the economic needs of our region.

So I don't see it as an extreme piece of legislation that's all environmental. I think it as an excellent example of leadership by Congressman Kildee and others who have crafted this bill to give us that particular balance.

I am very pleased to endorse this piece of legislation, and I would appreciate the committee's review and support.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pursell appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. VOLKMER. Thank you. I have only a couple of questions but before I do, I would like to say that as one who worked very diligently just a few years ago for wilderness designation of two areas in Missouri—and we were able to get that accomplished—I wish to let you know that I firmly believe that as long as the areas qualify, that wilderness protection should be given to those areas.

So with that thought in mind, I do notice, though, that in reviewing the testimony of the Forest Service that they do have some concerns about three of the areas; Delirium, the Government Island, I guess that is Les Cheneaux, and Nordhouse Dunes. Do you contemplate that you will be able to continue to possibly work with the Forest Service in regard to those concerns?

Mr. KILDEE. Well, we have worked with them for a number of years. It depends on whom you talk to over there. We have tried to work with them cooperatively. We have made some adjustments to the boundaries in Delirium to cherry stem a certain area out. Government Island, I don't know why they're having a problem with that. It's a very small area. I think they might have some problems having observation that the land is not being misused, but there's no real problem, it's not being misused now. We just want to make sure that we make the policy for Government Island; it's a very small area, it's a very beautiful area.

As for Nordhouse Dunes, I'm not sure where they are on that area. They can probably tell you more than I because it's been kind of on again-off again Finnegan on that. It depends again on when you talk to some people and whom you talk to over there.

We were very sensitive—if I may speak to the Nordhouse Dunes area, Mr. Chairman—very sensitive to the rights of the subsurface owners' property rights there. We included in the last Congress the Wyoming language to make sure that we were very specific in maintaining their rights. We have been very sensitive to that.

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But on this issue, the subsurface property owners' problems lie really not so much with the Federal Government but with the State of Michigan. We have been sensitive here to that, but whether we designate this as wilderness or leave it as it is, the Michigan policy will really be the governing policy as to whether there will be drilling allowed and how it will be allowed in the Nordhouse Dunes. So I don't think that is really so much a direct federal question here.

We have been sensitive to it. We have put in some very sensitive language, recognizing specifically the rights of the subsurface owners. But again, the State of Michigan will have its policy whether or not this is designated as wilderness.

And again on Delirium, we have worked with them to cherry stem one area out which contains a small earthen dam. Government Island is a very small area but a very beautiful area, and that is one area that I really believe should be left as in the hand of God. And they really have no problem observing it and making sure it is not used or misused. I will guarantee that if it is misused, I can inform them of that.

Mr. VOLKMER. Since I am unfamiliar with Michigan law, you stated that the Nordhouse Dunes area will be governed by Michigan law as to whether or not there will be any natural gas drilling or anything else in that area. Is it presently forbidden in certain areas?

Mr. KILDEE. Right now they have to get permission from the DNR. The DNR is the controlling agency there and the DNR is in the midst of study right now as to what they will possibly recommend for that Nordhouse Dune area. They have not yet decided that but I believe there is someone who will testify or at least someone present today from the Michigan DNR.

Mr. PURSELL. They are here to testify today. You can ask them that question.

Mr. VOLKMER. With that, I want to thank you very much. I will now yield to the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Schuette, for any questions he may have.

Mr. SCHUETTE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Briefly, I just want to thank my friends and colleagues for your very thorough and persuasive testimony. I thank you, Dale, and I thank you, Carl, for being here this afternoon and look forward to working and following this issue more closely as we proceed. Thank you very much.

Mr. VOLKMER. Thank you very much, we appreciate your being here. And we will now proceed with our next witness, Mr. George Leonard, the Associate Chief, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE M. LEONARD, ASSOCIATE CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. LEONARD. Mr. Chairman, with your permission I will brief my statement and ask that it be entered into the record.

Mr. VOLKMER. Yes, your statement will be made a part of the record in full and you may review it in full or summarize. Proceed.

Mr. LEONARD. Thank you. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify for the De-

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partment of Agriculture regarding H.R. 148, a bill to designate certain national forest lands in the State of Michigan as wilderness.

The Department of Agriculture recommends enactment of H.R. 148 if amended to delete wilderness designation for the Nordhouse Dunes area, the Delirium area and Les Cheneaux. H.R. 148 would designate 3,450 acres of the Manistee National Forest as the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness, including the recently acquired Sensibar Tract. The forest plan recommended 3,395 acres in this area for wilderness study. The most striking features of the area are the 3.6 miles of undeveloped Lake Michigan shoreline and the parallel sand dunes. The dunes are 140 feet tall and they surround small parcels and plateaus of woody vegetation. The varied environment provides hikers with a physically challenging and interesting experience. Nordhouse Dunes would be the first Federal wilderness in the lower peninsula of Michigan.

Mr. Chairman, there is no question that the Nordhouse Dunes area has the physical attributes qualifying it as potential wilderness. However, there is high potential for the occurrence of natural gas underlying the Nordhouse Dunes area. Within the area proposed for wilderness there are 1,985 acres of privately-owned mineral rights, 675 acres of State-owned mineral rights, and approximately 684 acres of Federal mineral rights that are currently under lease. If natural gas is discovered, the owners of the private mineral rights will almost certainly want to exercise those rights. The value of these rights is unknown but they could be worth millions of dollars if gas is discovered.

Private mineral rights underlying wilderness areas cause significant management and legal problems. It is unclear as to the extent which the Wilderness Act and other statutes impose specific requirements on a mineral operator. Several lawsuits have challenged the United States Government concerning private minerals in eastern wilderness. The suits arise from the mineral owners claiming that wilderness designation is a Federal "taking" effectively eliminating their property rights, therefore entitling them to compensation. Similarly, environmentalists have sued, claiming that the Forest Service was inadequately protecting wilderness values from mineral development. This situation has placed us in a very difficult position.

The end result of litigation has usually resulted in the mineral rights being acquired by the Government either through court settlement or congressional action. These acquisitions have proven expensive and are particularly difficult to negotiate due to the difficulty of developing accurate mineral appraisal information. The value of the mineral rights is always a significant issue, and it is usually a highly subjective determination. To date, over $25 million has been spent on the acquisition of private mineral rights in wildernesses in the East. We want to avoid getting involved in costly acquisition of mineral rights in Nordhouse Dunes.

Therefore, due to the major difficulties associated with designation as wilderness of an area that has high potential for overlying large, privately-held gas reserves, we do not recommend wilderness designation at this time.

If Congress does decide to designate Nordhouse Dunes as wilderness, we believe it is essential that the bill be amended. Such an

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amendment would provide that privately-owned mineral rights may be developed; that litigation over these rights is discouraged, and that wilderness designation would impose no more regulatory burdens on the Forest Service and mineral right holders than are incurred to protect national forest lands outside of wilderness. Suggested language for an amendment is attached to my testimony. The existing language in section 2(a) is not adequate to meet our concerns since it does not adequately address the legal standards by which the Federal Government would regulate development of private mineral rights.

The Department of Agriculture would strongly oppose designation of Nordhouse Dunes as wilderness unless the bill includes language similar to that in our proposed amendment.

The Delirium area of 11,870 acres is a flat to rolling area, primarily consisting of wetlands. The area contains good wildlife habitat and two ponds of 6 and 80 acres, which add interest. The natural integrity of the area is affected by the presence of a man-made flowage named Sylvester Pond, abandoned roadbeds, an elevated railroad grade and some evidence of strip cutting of timber. The area offers few recreational attractions but does provide a diverse wetland complex and associated wildlife habitats.

This area was not recommended for wilderness study in the Forest Plan due to the evidence of human use in the area, and we oppose its designation as wilderness.

The Les Cheneaux area was identified in the Forest Plan as Government Island. This 214 acre island is the only publicly-owned island in the Les Cheneaux group. There is a lack of solitude on this island as it is only 80 feet west of LaSalle Island, which is in private ownership. In addition, a roaded island is a quarter mile to the northeast. Most recreation on the island has been day use activities and few characteristics normally associated with wilderness are present. Primitive sanitary facilities have been provided to eliminate a public health problem. The island's close proximity to highly developed recreational residences and relatively protected water for boat use would make it difficult to provide a quality wilderness experience.

For these reasons, this island was not recommended for wilderness study in the forest plan and we oppose its designation as wilderness.

H.R. 148 contains standard release language; therefore, all national forest land in Michigan not designated as wilderness would be released for uses other than wilderness upon enactment of H.R. 148, and we believe this is an essential feature of the bill.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my statement. I will be happy to respond to any questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Leonard appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. VOLKMER. Thank you very much, Mr. Leonard. I have a few questions here, if I can find my notes.

I think we'd like to look first at Nordhouse Dunes and there, as I understand it, the biggest problem is the mineral rights and their natural gas potential.

Mr. LEONARD. That's correct.

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Mr. VOLKMER. But also that area was designated or recommended in your own forest plans for—in the past, right, for designation?

Mr. LEONARD. That's correct, Mr. Chairman. There is no question that disregarding the mineral rights, the area has all the attributes to be an addition to the wilderness system.

Mr. VOLKMER. All right. Well, before I get into Delirium, let me ask you, I just noticed here when I look at Rock River Canyon and Hiawatha National Forest, it says there in your statement that four private parties and the State of Michigan own the mineral rights underlying 93 percent of the area, but it appears that's only sand, gravel and dimension sandstone are the only really minerals that are available——

Mr. LEONARD. That's right. We think that even though those minerals are in private ownership, there is little likelihood that they would be developed.

Mr. VOLKMER. They would be developed for economic purposes. But you feel that the natural gas could be possibly developed in the future?

Mr. LEONARD. Yes, the geological formation that underlies the Nordhouse area exists elsewhere in the surrounding area and it has been extensively developed. Therefore, there's substantial evidence that the geologic formation does contain developable natural gas.

Mr. VOLKMER. Then, let's see, the problems with Delirium is because it wasn't recommended for a wilderness study; is that correct?

Mr. LEONARD. That's correct, it wasn't recommended for a wilderness study because of the substantial evidence of human presence in the area. The old road system, the railroad grades, the dams and whatnot. Now there has been an attempt through revision of the boundaries to reduce some of those impacts, but nevertheless somebody in there using the area will see substantial evidence of human activity.

Mr. VOLKMER. Similar to what we saw in the Old Irish Wilderness out in Missouri?

Mr. LEONARD. Yes, sir. [Laughter.]

Mr. VOLKMER. Fine.

And then the Government Island, is that basically because, what, there's no forest or anything on that island, or——

Mr. LEONARD. No, it's a forested island. The problem is one that users of that area will simply never be able to get away from the apparent use of the adjacent lands. The area is very small, about 214 acres. The channels separating it from the next island, which is used for recreation and residential purposes, is only 80 feet wide, so normal conversations on the porch in the evening would be carried over into the island. So there would be lack of the solitude normally experienced.

Mr. VOLKMER. So, in others words, its proximity to a heavily populated, or to some extent populated area?

Mr. LEONARD. That's right. It's my understanding, for example, motor boats go through that 80-foot-wide channel and along the other side of the island, and there would be simply no way to get away from the sounds of motorboats as you're using the island,

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which is not the type of thing that we usually associate with a wilderness experience.

Mr. VOLKMER. I see. I want to thank you for your testimony. I have no further questions.

The gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. SCHUETTE. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman, just one.

Mr. Leonard, your comments about Delirium, is that similar to the Les Cheneaux area, that there's enough human activity in that Delirium area that it does not meet your interpretation of wilderness? Is that the way to phrase it correctly?

Mr. LEONARD. In the case of the Les Cheneaux——

Mr. SCHUETTE. I understand that from the standpoint of the proximity, the access.

Mr. LEONARD. The proximity.

Mr. SCHUETTE. How about Delirium, though?

Mr. LEONARD. In Delirium, it's the amount of evidence of human activity that's already on the ground there.

Mr. SCHUETTE. Current use?

Mr. LEONARD. No, sir, not current use, previous use.

Mr. SCHUETTE. Previous use. Past use.

Mr. LEONARD. Some of it fairly old.

Mr. SCHUETTE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. VOLKMER. Yes. The staff just pointed out, maybe you can tell me why, that Les Cheneaux was recommended for wilderness in the RARE II study, but not in the Forest Management Plan for the National Forest. Why is that?

Mr. LEONARD. The RARE II study was a national study trying to make judgments on a national scale, and it simply was not the detailed look by local people at the local situation that was done as part of the forest plan. And we think that the forest plan analysis of the island provided a better basis for a recommendation.

Mr. VOLKMER. Basically, though, you still use the same criteria, do you not?

Mr. LEONARD. Same basic criteria, yes, sir.

Mr. VOLKMER. Same basic criteria. All right. I was just curious about that.

The other thing I was wondering about, when we evaluate an area for wilderness, like you did on the Nordhouse Dunes, the mineral rights are really not taken into account at that time when you decide whether or not it qualifies as a wilderness area; is that correct?

Mr. LEONARD. That's correct.

Mr. VOLKMER. And then the other question is, we have in the past, and especially in the eastern areas of this country, designated areas as wilderness, even though they have potential mineral—they have private ownership of mineral rights that are potential for commercial use. We have done that in the past.

Mr. LEONARD. Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. In fact, well over half of the eastern wildernesses are underlain by private mineral rights. The experience that we have had with those areas, including the cost of acquisition of mineral rights, in order to protect the wilderness values that gives us concern about classifying Nordhouse Dunes unless the Congress clearly indicates that they don't intend

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us to acquire the mineral rights, to prevent development of the area.

Mr. VOLKMER. From what Congressman Kildee has mentioned in answer to one of my questions—we'll find out with our next witness, Mr. Roethele from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources—it could be something they are doing would impact on the value of those mineral rights if they're not able to get in and do anything about it, would it not?

Mr. LEONARD. Well, that's true, although that then raises the question of a congressional taking. If through wilderness classification we've rendered those rights which otherwise would have been valuable, of whether or not those rights continue to have value.

Mr. VOLKMER. I agree on that, but if the State of Michigan in the meantime, through their Department of Natural Resources and their legislative body, their Governor, et cetera, takes action that would actually prohibit anybody from going in there and doing it, anyway, in that whole area—not just in this wilderness, but in that whole area.

Mr. LEONARD. I suspect it would result in a substantial opportunity for litigation over the result.

Mr. VOLKMER. Right. Between them and the private owners, as well as the Federal Government.

Mr. LEONARD. Yes.

Mr. VOLKMER. Well, we'd be joined in that, then.

Mr. LEONARD. I think there's substantial opportunity for that.

Mr. VOLKMER. All right. Does the gentleman from Indiana have any questions?

Mr. JONTZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Leonard, could I ask this question? You have noted in your testimony that to date $25 million have been spent on acquisition of private mineral lands in eastern wildernesses. What is your prediction of the cost of acquisition of the private mineral rights in Nordhouse Dunes, were such acquisition to occur?

Mr. LEONARD. Congressman, we have an estimate of $5.8 million, but we need to recognize that estimates of what may be under the ground and can't be accurately inventoried are subject to substantial differences of opinion.

Mr. JONTZ. If I might ask another question about Les Cheneaux, how many people live on the island it's adjacent to, to Government Island?

Mr. LEONARD. I don't have that exact information. There are a number of residences on the island immediately adjacent to it.

Mr. JONTZ. Perhaps one of the other witnesses can address that.

Mr. Chairman, if I might make just a very brief statement. We in Indiana have a very fine wilderness in our National Forest, and I am pleased to see this bill come before us. I think it's fair to give Michigan a chance to catch up with some of our other States in the Midwest. [Laughter.]

We wouldn't even mind if Michigan cut in on some of the tourist business, either. So it's a pleasure for me to——

Mr. SCHUETTE. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. JONTZ. Yes.

Mr. SCHUETTE. I appreciate your sense of humor.

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Mr. VOLKMER. And at least, as I noticed on your license plate, you don't want me to wander into Indiana any more.

My staff has informed me that I forgot one question.

Would it be possible in areas adjacent to the dunes area, Nordhouse Dunes, that commercial concerns could slant drill down underneath?

Mr. LEONARD. I understand that there is some opportunity, but because of the nature of the particular geological formations, they cannot develop the entire private mineral rights through slant drilling.

Mr. VOLKMER. They would not?

Mr. LEONARD. They could not.

Mr. VOLKMER. In other words, some of it is enclosed in pockets that are solely underneath the Nordhouse Dunes area?

Mr. LEONARD. That's correct. My understanding is that part of the private mineral resources could be developed through slant drilling, but not entirely.

Mr. VOLKMER. All right. Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Mr. Leonard. I appreciate your testimony here today.

Our next witness will be Mr. John Roethele, supervisor of the administration section of the geological survey division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources. We welcome you here today, Mr. Roethele, and appreciate you taking your time to be here, and your statement will be made a part of the record. You may either review it in full or summarize; however you so desire.

STATEMENT OF JOHN ROETHELE, SUPERVISOR, ADMINISTRATION SECTION, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DIVISION, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ON BEHALF OF GORDON GUYER, DIRECTOR

Mr. ROETHELE. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee.

My name is John Roethele. My title is supervisor of the administration section of the geological survey division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The geological survey division is the division within the department at the State level that is responsible for the administration of the hydrocarbon development industry within the boundaries of the State of Michigan.

The department is provided with the authority, through the police powers of the State, to determine whether or not permits to explore for and produce hydrocarbons, oil and gas deposits, can occur or cannot occur.

We are also the lead division responsible for the administration, management, and protection of Michigan's Great Lakes sand dunes formations under the provisions of Michigan law.

Over the past year, we have made a concerted effort to learn more about these very valuable natural resources that grace our Great Lakes shoreline, and we have come to learn that these are very special natural resources, not only to the citizens of Michigan, but to the citizens of our Nation.

My appearance before you this afternoon is on behalf of the director of the department, Dr. Gordon Guyer. Due to previous com-

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mitments, Dr. Guyer could not be present. I did meet with him at length yesterday, and he extends his apologies for not being here personally.

The director is very definitely concerned and very supportive of the proposal which is before you in writing, and I wish to share that with you at this time.

Proposals to establish additional Federal wilderness areas by congressional action within the State of Michigan is a subject of continuing and keen public interest to the residents of our State. The citizens of Michigan have consistently demonstrated their commitment to the protection and enhancement of the quality of Michigan's environmental setting and unmatched diversity of opportunities for outdoor recreation that are so very vital to our tourism industry.

Likewise, we strongly support the utilization of our natural resources for economic and industrial development purposes in a manner that is consistent with our paramount concern for the wise use and protection of these irreplaceable treasures.

Over 8 million acres of land in the State of Michigan is held in public ownership and is administered and managed by several types of Federal, State, and local governmental bodies or agencies. The vast majority of this acreage is administered either by the Federal Government through the U.S. Forest Service or by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

A harmonious and cooperative working relationship has continued to exist between Federal and State agency representatives with respect to our responsibilities to the public as custodians of their land and natural resources.

We mutually recognize the value served in managing public land for multiple-use purposes. Conversely, single-purpose uses may be determined to be the highest and best use for certain areas, dependent upon the natural values and physical qualities inherent in such areas and places.

The management of land as wilderness is one form of single-purpose management and may be appropriate under site-specific qualities and conditions.

One particular area included within the concept is the focal point of this position statement. This area happens to be the only proposed potential wilderness area in Michigan's lower peninsula. It is commonly known as the Nordhouse Dunes Area and is a portion of the Huron-Manistee National Forest.

We strongly urge the inclusion of this area in any legislation that may result in the establishment of additional Federal wilderness areas in Michigan. The Nordhouse Dunes area is a focal point of prominence of ecological and environmental sensitivity along Michigan's Lake Michigan shoreline.

It is appropriate that we digress for a moment, to place in proper perspective, the significance of this area to the natural values inherent within the Great Lakes Region of the United States. The sand dune formations that exist in portions of Michigan's Great Lakes shoreline represent the largest assemblage of fresh-water dunes in the world. They are truly a unique natural resource from a global perspective. These relatively young geomorphic features

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were created by natural forces that shall most likely not be repeated.

It is through the forces of wind and water that relatively homogeneous deposits of sand were created over the past 10,000 years. Approximately 250 linear miles of Michigan's 3,200 miles of Great Lakes shoreline exhibit sand dune formations. The majority of these formations exist along the Lake Michigan shoreline on Michigan's lower peninsula.

Michigan sand dunes have been a subject of interest to those knowledgeable in the physical and biological sciences for many years. The basic principles of plant succession, as recognized by competent ecologists today, were established through investigative research projects in sand dune settings in the late 1800's.

Many additional scientific investigations have been carried forth by scholars in Michigan sand dune formations since the enactment of the Michigan Sand Dune Protection and Management Act by the Michigan legislature in 1976. These investigations included the Nordhouse Dunes Area and other prominent features along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

The Nordhouse Dunes Area is an integral and functional portion of a larger land and water environmental system known as the Big Point Sable-Hamlin Lake Nordhouse Dunes environmental system. It is, in essence, a regional landscape system. It is relevant to note that approximately 8,000 acres of land and inland water are in public surface ownership in this area. Approximately 4,500 acres of this total are administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as the Ludington State Park.

The Forest Service does manage the additional 3,500 acres, which does share a common north boundary with the State park. Public ownership within this area is extensively utilized for outdoor recreational activities on a year-round basis. Facilities for overnight camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking, and nature study have been developed and are administered by both public agencies, the Michigan DNR and the Forest Service.

It is a fact that this portion of Michigan is a destination recreation area to residents and visitors to our State. The positive impact of the tourism industry is a very important factor to the economic growth and enhancement of this part of Michigan.

The focal points of attraction in this area are the high relief barrier dune formations which grace the Lake Michigan shoreline. Outstanding vistas, viewpoints, and overlooks, provide ample opportunities for spiritual refreshment to visitors.

Located landward of these geomorphic features are sensitive wetlands and lowlands, including marshes and bogs that are vital components to surface and ground water regimes. Transitional systems or ecotones exist between ecosystems of differing character. These systems exist, and perpetuate themselves, within the Nordhouse Dunes Area, as referenced in H.R. 148.

The record of public and private ownership interests within the Nordhouse Dunes Area is well understood and recognized within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. There does exist a complexity of ownership interests that are further recognized as valid existing rights.

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There does also exist the responsibility of public agencies to fulfill their obligations under applicable law when values held in public trust may be affected or adversely impacted.

The Department of Natural Resources has been provided with the authority of exclusive jurisdiction over the manner in which hydrocarbons are explored for and produced by the Michigan legislature. A comprehensive management and regulatory program exists within the department toward meeting this statutory responsibility.

Clearly, the likelihood of hydrocarbon development within sensitive environmental areas such as the Nordhouse Dunes is a matter of paramount concern. Governor James Blanchard has similarly expressed his sincere interest and concern about this matter on several occasions. The Michigan Natural Resources Commission also conveys serious apprehension about the compatibility of such development with the natural values inherent in this outstanding area.

The DNR and the U.S. Forest Service have been interacting in a cooperative spirit toward the formulation of decisions that shall assure long-term protection for the unique and sensitive environmental elements that collectively comprise the Nordhouse Dunes Area. The department is further committed to the utilization of all legal authority available in the accomplishment of this objective.

A dual agency DNR and Forest Service interdisciplinary review and evaluation team has diligently functioned during the past year toward the identification and magnitude of impacts that hydrocarbon development would create in this portion of Michigan. Ample opportunities have been, and shall continue to be, provided for the public to participate in decisionmaking processes.

We are presently engaged in the administrative process of reviewing proposals brought forward by current mineral leaseholders in the Nordhouse Dunes Area for oil and gas development. Regulatory or police power authority existing at the State level and as defined by State law shall provide the basis for the decisions on hydrocarbon development in this area.

Such decisions should not dictate one way or the other on the formal designation as wilderness as proposed in H.R. 148.

Rather, the physical values inherent within this area should serve as the basis as to whether or not the area does indeed conform to the standards of wilderness as commonly accepted by the public.

It is a conclusion of the department that this outstanding reservoir of natural resources is clearly deserving of such recognition.

That concludes my statement, Mr. Chairman.

I thank you for your indulgence. And if there are any questions, I'll be glad to try to answer.

[The prepared statement of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. VOLKMER. Thank you, Mr. Roethele. I just have a question.

In the event that the Congress and Federal Government does not, for one reason or another, designate the Nordhouse Dunes as a wilderness area, would there still remain restrictions, do you believe, on—other than the Federal restrictions—would there be any

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by the State of Michigan in developing your policies on exploring for gas and drilling for gas in that area?

Mr. ROETHELE. Absolutely, Mr. Chairman. We would indeed. In all occasions where there are any proposals brought forward, regardless of the nature, whether it's proposals to explore for oil and gas or to build residential development or to engage in mining activities, we exert very serious concern and caution over such areas, regardless of whether or not the area, as in this case, is wilderness.

Mr. VOLKMER. And so you're doing it to basically protect the geological formations that have occurred there and what exists there at the present time; is that correct?

Mr. ROETHELE. That is correct. A truly sensitive area.

Mr. VOLKMER. It appears to me, in listening to your statement, it's a very forceful statement in behalf of the Nordhouse Dunes, and I'm just wondering if my good friend and your Governor, Governor Blanchard, feels as strongly as your statement is about this.

Mr. ROETHELE. I cannot speak personally for him, nor would I attempt to, but the Governor has consistently and publicly expressed very, very serious concern over the compatibility of such development within this area.

Mr. VOLKMER. Well, we still have to recognize that persons do have individual rights of ownership and property, and somehow that has to be reconciled.

Mr. ROETHELE. Yes. We have recognized that very much, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to, for your information—you raised the question earlier—the matter of directional drilling to reach likely anomalies or the likely presence in these reservoirs, and these are relatively small reservoirs in this area, of domes, if you will, minimountains.

Mr. VOLKMER. What I call pockets.

Mr. ROETHELE. Pockets would be fine. Directional drilling techniques exist and may be further utilized to reach such places. It is not an exact science in exploring for these pinnacle reefs, these pockets, in this type of geological formation.

It obviously results in increased costs. But when we're dealing with exceptional cases and characters of surface values, we're committed to using all avenues available to assure that those goals are met.

Mr. VOLKMER. Maybe I ought to present to you a hypothetical—before I make another statement, and perhaps I may also, with other proponents who are later to testify.

Let's assume that we do go ahead and designate this area as a wilderness area, and therefore that will stop all drilling, and we won't have to worry about that. That's going to end.

But comes the year 2010 and natural gas reservoirs are drying up all over the country and Michigan is getting colder and we need some heat. An act of Congress could at that time, if they wished to desire, to work it out so that drilling could progress without destroying the geological formations, open it up then.

If we designate it wilderness now, it could be opened up later, could it not?

Mr. ROETHELE. Absolutely, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to add to your observation that drilling did occur in the Nord

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Dunes in 1953. A hole was drilled right in the middle of the place. It was a dry hole.

There is a very strong likelihood that if drilling is allowed in this area, the same results may occur.

They are proposing to drill into a different geological formation, deeper. There is also the likelihood that 20 years from now, there may be proposals to drill three times as deep into other areas. As we learn more about our resources and become more concerned about producing the Nation's energy supplies, we become a little bit more innovative, and that could very well likely occur.

Mr. VOLKMER. Well, I basically took that position, as I mentioned earlier, as a proponent of the Irish Wilderness in Missouri, because the Irish contains unquestionably lead deposits in it, and we had no drilling, and I feel in years in the future, what I'm doing now by designating wilderness, I'm preserving that lead deposit, and if 30 or 50 years from now or 100 years from now, we need lead, well, we know where we probably can find some.

Mr. ROETHELE. That's true. It's not going to go away.

Mr. VOLKMER. It's not going to go away that way.

Thank you very much. I will recognize the gentleman from Michigan for any questions he may have.

Mr. SCHUETTE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

John, welcome to the subcommittee. Is it Roethele; am I correct on that.

Mr. ROETHELE. Yes, you are correct. Thank you, Congressman.

Mr. SCHUETTE. I have a great appreciation for last names, Mr. Roethele.

Let me say, I have such high respect and admiration for Gordon Guyer. He is such a leader for our State, and I always enjoy his company. He has been tremendous with the DNR, plus Marty Fluharty at the Natural Resources Commission. I'm close friends with them, and so you work in the company of people that I'm proud to be associated with and know.

One question, Mr. Roethele. The language that Mr. Leonard from the Forest Service mentioned, if you saw that option within his statement.

Have you assessed that, or what's your viewpoint on that language that the Department, through the Forest Service, offered?

Mr. ROETHELE. Well, I can tell you, Congressman, that I have not seen the language previous to hearing it today. I would have to state clearly and on the record that the department's position is basically this.

If the test is met that this particular area, by the resources contained within it, conforms to wilderness, as commonly accepted within the public, recognize it as such. And the matter of inserting this type of language seems to beg the question.

We're going to—"we," being the DNR—the director and the commission are going to—are committed toward using all the authority available to achieve the protection of these resources, based upon the character of those resources, whether it's in the Nordhouse Dunes or in the Pigeon River Country State Forest or elsewhere.

And the point here is that if the test is met, recognize it and include it in the package. And we believe that that test has been met here.

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Mr. SCHUETTE. I appreciate your line of argument. If you would be so kind in the future to evaluate in a written fashion, and provide to me your analysis, assessment, evaluation of the Forest Service proposed language. That would be helpful in terms of my assessment of this issue.

Thank you very much, Mr. Roethele, and give my best to Dr. Guyer, please.

Mr. ROETHELE. I certainly will.

Mr. SCHUETTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Mr. VOLKMER. The gentleman from South Dakota.

Mr. JOHNSON. No questions, Mr. Chairman. I simply mention to the gentleman from Michigan that, as a former employee of the Michigan legislature and one whose parent is sick and continue to live in Oakamist, I'm familiar with the quality of the agencies in Lansing, and I have a particular concern for the preservation of the wilderness area in the State of Michigan. And I am following this issue with some interest.

Mr. SCHUETTE. If the gentleman would yield. Where I'm pleased of your interest, and I just wish your parents lived in my congressional district. [Laughter.]

Mr. VOLKMER. The gentleman from Idaho.

[No response.]

Mr. VOLKMER. The gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. STALLINGS. No questions.

Mr. VOLKMER. I have one other questions. I was just reviewing, my staff was showing me the EIS on the dunes area; and back here it shows where the mineral rights are located. I assume that you're familiar with this, to some degree.

Mr. ROETHELE. I was the author.

Mr. VOLKMER. Pardon.

Mr. ROETHELE. I was the author.

Mr. VOLKMER. These three mineral rights that are shown here, are any one of those three in the areas where they drilled in 1953?

Mr. ROETHELE. Close, but to a different depth.

Mr. VOLKMER. To a different depth.

Mr. ROETHELE. Yes.

Mr. VOLKMER. OK. So, that really doesn't mean anything then, as far as that's concerned. It just shows that there are limited amounts.

I want to thank you very much for taking your time to be with us here today, and you've been very helpful.

In closing, before we get to the other witnesses, I would like to mention, too, that I just found out from the gentleman, your testimony and talking to the other gentleman here from Michigan, as one who in years past visited Ludington State Park, enjoyed it very much with my family, camped out there, and we camped with a tent, we didn't use those trailers and mobile homes and stuff that—in fact, that was the first place that I ever went that I saw—I was completely astounded, to see people from Detroit in these big mobile homes pulling up and getting out in the morning with the electric coffeepots and electric toasters and electric frying pans and fixing breakfast in a State Park. I've never seen that before in Missouri or throughout the West where we usually camp, and it was quite a sight.

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It was a beautiful place.

Mr. ROETHELE. Indeed it certainly is, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. VOLKMER. I understand this is just right north of that.

Mr. ROETHELE. Yes, it is. In fact, I would like to personally extend you the welcome opportunity to revisit Michigan, and we'll be glad to take you right back to that same camp site.

Mr. VOLKMER. Fine. Maybe some day I can get to that.

Gentleman.

Mr. JONTZ. If the gentleman would yield.

Have you installed television dishes in your State Parks yet? [Laughter.]

Mr. ROETHELE. No.

Mr. VOLKMER. Thank you.

Our next witnesses appear as a panel. We have Ms. Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter of Sierra Club from Lansing; Mr. Michael Kellett, Michigan representative of The Wilderness Society from Ann Arbor; Ms. Jan Schultz, Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition; Ms. Sarah Iverson Miles, Les Cheneaux Association; and John and Joan Forester, Hamlin Lake Association from Ludington.

I just want to advise those who have a prepared statement that your statement will be made a part of the record. You may either, when it comes your turn to testify, review the statement in full or summarize, however you so desire. If you summarize, your full statement will appear in the record, so you will have both.

With that, we will begin with Ms. Woiwode.

STATEMENT OF ANNE MARSHALL WOIWODE, CONSERVATION REPRESENTATIVE, MACKINAC CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB

Ms. WOIWODE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your correct pronunciation of my last name.

Mr. VOLKMER. That was only because the staff told me so.

Ms. WOIWODE. Thank you.

My name is Anne Woiwode, and I am the conservation representative for the Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club, and I appreciate the opportunity to come here and testify in favor of the 11 magnificent areas of Forest Service land in Michigan that are put forward in the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act.

I want to express our deep appreciation to Congressman Kildee as well for his efforts on this issue over the past several years. I think his dedication to this issue reflects the fervent commitment of many Michigan citizens to see these special places afforded the particular protection available under wilderness designation.

While the history of Forest Service wilderness debate in Michigan is similar to the debates in other States, in Michigan a unique situation has arisen over the course of the past few years. Representatives of the forest products industry and environmental organizations have been brought together in several settings in efforts to try to address and resolve conflicts over forest resources.

One of the first outcomes was the support in 1985 by the Governor's Michigan Forest Products Industry Development Council of the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act. That support, with specific caveats for inclusion of release language and clarification of air quality issues, represents the first occasion in which any council

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has expressed its support for any wilderness bill before the United States Congress.

As the designated environmental representative to the Forest Products Industry Development Council, I felt fortunate to be part of a bold effort to begin to address the differences between these interests in a constructive fashion.

In the planning process in the Hiawatha National Forest, a unique situation has also developed. Over a year ago the staff of the Hiawatha decided to take advantage of the improved relationship among the interest groups to try to address issues in a cooperative rather than adversarial manner. This has not been an easy process, but it has been an instructive one.

Through the efforts of the staff on that forest, the timber industry and environmental organizations, we have begun to negotiate out the differences of opinion among many interests over the final plan for the Hiawatha National Forest.

One of the issues addressed in our first session last week was the issue of wilderness designation. While agreements struck at the forest level must pass through the appropriate channels before receiving final Forest Service approval, we are confident that minor modifications in the Delirium area and Government Island or Les Cheneaux area will allow the Forest Service to support the designation of these areas by Congress as wilderness. Many of the issues still must be addressed in the process of these negotiations. We are convinced that the effort will pay off in an unprecedented example of the ability of these divergent interests to come to a meeting of the minds.

The support for wilderness designation of these areas from such unusual quarters as members of the timber industry is but one of the reasons that these areas deserve action in this committee.

The most compelling reason is the absolute appropriateness of each of these 11 areas for wilderness designation. Michigan has been blessed with an amazing array of natural wonders, most of which revolve around water in one way or another. These 11 areas, in a remarkable way, have captured the essence of Michigan by defining a vast range of our State's features.

While it is difficult to capture the natural glory of areas such as these in just a few words, each one conjures up a specific picture. The tree-covered dunes and low land of Nordhouse Dunes; the craggy walls of Sturgeon River Gorge; the dense, dark, forbidding swampland in the Delirium area; the rocky, history-laden shores of Les Cheneaux and Round Island; pristine lakes and rivers of Sylvania, Big Island Lakes and Mackinac Area; the sandy beaches and marshy swales of Horseshoe Bay; the ice caves of Rock River Canyon; and the mammoth white pines of the McCormick tract—these snapshots merely echo the complex beauty and wonder of each of these areas.

More complete descriptions of each are attached. They are attached to the copies for the members.

For most of these areas, the support for preservation is virtually universal. While some people object to the wilderness designation on philosophical grounds, it is clear that the desired effect, permanent removal from timber production and prohibition of future

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roads and motorized access, is achieved through the wilderness designation, and in no other way.

Much of the language included in H.R. 148 is designed to allay the fears of special interests as to the impact of wilderness designation on their particular interest. While we accept the language as it is, we are convinced that the language addressing the mineral rights under the Nordhouse Dunes Area has gone as far as conscionable in addressing a rather narrow interest of a few individuals.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 acknowledges the rights and protections of valid rights holders, and we have no quibble with the restatement of that intent within the language of H.R. 148.

However, further accommodation would tend to build in guarantees not given to any in the highly speculative oil and gas industry. It would also set a dangerous precedent for the future of designations of wilderness areas.

There cannot be any preemption of other environmental laws. In Michigan, such laws will take precedence over drilling proposals, regardless of any Federal designation or lack thereof. And although the Forest Service concerns affect their perception of this area, it is up to the Congress to act and not to an administrative agency. So we urge you to ensure the inclusion of Nordhouse Dunes in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

I will just hit on two other concerns. In the Sturgeon River Gorge area, the Forest Service is intending to run a national scenic trail on the opposite side of a road from the Sturgeon River Gorge as opposed to through the area because of management language that directs them to not run national scenic trails through wilderness areas. And we would urge a clarification of this because it seems inappropriate to run the trail through clear-cut areas on the other side of the road, as opposed to through the wilderness area. And we also urge that the Forest Service be not restricted in their acquisition to merely trading, which had been brought up in the last testimony in the last session; that they should be able to acquire by purchase lands that become available if that is possible.

Also in the Delirium and Les Cheneaux areas, the conditions that Congressman Kildee brought up, there are ways to make those areas suitable for wilderness. We do support cherry-stemming into the dam at Delirium, and allowing for various types of sanitary equipment in the Les Cheneaux area.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Woiwode appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. VOLKMER. Thank you very much, Ms. Woiwode.

Mr. Kellett.

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL J. KELLETT, MICHIGAN REPRESENTATIVE, WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Mr. KELLETT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am Michael Kellett. I am the Michigan representative of the Wilderness Society, and I am here on behalf of the society's 160,000 members to strongly support H.R. 148, the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act.

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The society commends Congressman Kildee for his outstanding leadership on this issue, and we are also pleased that 11 other Congressmen from Michigan chose to cosponsor this important bill.

I will summarize some of my other comments, because I think those before me have amply demonstrated how remarkable these areas are.

I will note that I have been fortunate enough to have visited all 11 of these areas, and seen them first-hand, and can attest to the fact that they are indeed outstanding areas.

What I would like to do is focus on the three areas of some controversy, Nordhouse Dunes, Delirium, and Government Island.

Regarding Nordhouse Dunes, I think Mr. Roethele amply described what an outstanding area this is. We would like to emphasize the fact that the State is right now trying to resolve the controversy over oil and gas drilling there, and it could be that the State will refuse to grant permits to drill. And if that is the case, the Forest Service's concern over purchasing the subsurface may be a moot point, in that they could not access the area from inside the wilderness in any event.

Regarding Delirium and Government Island, Delirium is an outstanding and diverse wetland complex. It is an 11,870 acre area, and it provides habitat for numerous species including bobcat, beaver, otter, deer, black bear, ducks, loons, great blue herons, and sandhill cranes.

In the draft EIS in the Hiawatha National Forest Plan, it was stated that the area "may become a fully authentic wetland ecotype in which the gene pools of all flora and fauna would be maintained."

Delirium's rich biological values clearly make it eminently suited for wilderness designation.

The Forest Service recommends this area for nonwilderness in the Hiawatha Forest Final Plan, as stated today. Conservationists have appealed the Hiawatha National Forest Plan, and one of the issues has been what we think is an improper recommendation for nonwilderness for Delirium and Government Island.

Regarding Delirium, the issue of appearance of human change and damage to the wilderness values is not stated in the record of decision in the final plan as a reason for recommending this area for nonwilderness. The only real reason given is the fact that there is Sylvester Pond, which is an impoundment, which Congressman Kildee mentioned. We agree that Sylvester Pond should be maintained. It is an 80-acre pond that is backed up by an earthen dam about as high as this table. I was in the area and I wouldn't have known the dam was not natural if someone hadn't pointed it out to me.

So we think the issue of substantial change in the natural appearance is not an issue, and it is not an issue in the final plan, either.

We think that Congressman Kildee's approach, cherry-stemming the road and the dam, would amply deal with that problem, and in discussions with the Forest Service staff on Hiawatha, they indicate that that would take care of the problem also, some sort of cherry-stem.

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In terms of Government Island, we have also appealed the plan on the issue of Government Island, because the so-called sights and sounds issue again we think is not a legitimate issue. You heard that LaSalle Island is 80 feet west of Government Island. What wasn't mentioned is that LaSalle Island is virtually uninhabited and has no road for developments on it, and it is owned by a couple of people who have summer residents there. There's really only one island anywhere around there that has any appreciable amount of human use, and that is usually for a couple weeks during the summer.

So we think again that Congressman Kildee is correct to include both of these areas.

Another issue on Government Island that the staff has told us is a problem is sanitary facilities, which wasn't mentioned today, but we think that that can be dealt with appropriately in the bill. It has been done in other areas, and we would urge, though, that the Forest Service would try to do away with those, if possible, through regulation of the use of the area.

I would also like to mention Sturgeon River Gorge. Senator Levin's bill introduced last session included some areas and excluded others which would be part of the wilderness area under Congressman Kildee's bill.

We wish to make it clear that we strongly endorse the boundaries of Sturgeon River Gorge included in H.R. 148. I have personally visited all of the areas in question, and can attest to the need for their inclusion in the bill.

Of special concern is the so-called eastern escarpment area, which is a 700-acre strip bordered by the gorge on the west and Forest Road 191 on the east. This area is needed to protect the inner gorge from the sights and sounds of motorized recreation, and represents an easily reached part of the wilderness for many users.

We strongly agree with Congressman Kildee that all of these areas are superb examples of the outstanding biological diversity, scenic values, and recreational opportunities of Michigan's North Woods.

As I have explained, the Wilderness Society believes that the perceived conflicts existing with regard to Nordhouse Dunes, Delirium and Government Island have been or could be addressed within the framework of the Wilderness Act and H.R. 148.

Designation of these special areas as wilderness will ensure that they are protected for this and future generations.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of H.R. 148.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Kellett appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. VOLKMER. Thank you very much.

Our next witness is Ms. Jan Schultz. Ms. Schultz.

STATEMENT OF JANET SCHULTZ, MARQUETTE COUNTY, MI

Ms. SCHULTZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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I would like to express my appreciation, first of all, to the committee for scheduling these hearings and for allowing me to participate.

My name is Janet Schultz, and I have lived in Marquette County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula for 12 years. While I am a long way from home, and I find speaking in front of all of you somewhat intimidating, I am glad to have the opportunity to speak on the wilderness issue.

Before I explain my wilderness sentiments, I would like to describe my background as it relates to this issue.

I have a masters degree in biology and have taught ecology and biology classes at Northern Michigan University in Marquette for the last 12 years.

During the past 7 years I have had the opportunity to work as a biologist at the U.S. Forest Service Northern Hardwoods Research Lab in Marquette, Michigan. During the 7 years I conducted botanical research in U.S. Forest Service research natural areas, and proposed research natural areas, one of them being Rock River Canyon.

Our interest in these areas as researchers, in part, was to gain a better understanding of the successional processes that occur when forests are disturbed. In other words, what are the steps and processes that a plant community goes through to mend itself after a disturbance such as logging? This is essential information for land-use planning after logging operations are concluded.

The research natural areas we examine served, along with other minimally disturbed wilderness areas, as controls in our successional studies. I say, minimally disturbed because it's very difficult to find areas in our part of the country that have not incurred some man-induced disturbances.

Based on this background, I would like to share with you my wilderness sentiments.

Botanically, many of the proposed areas harbor unusual and sometimes rare plants and plant communities. Often these species and communities will not tolerate ground compaction, additional sunlight or other disturbances resulting from logging activity.

For instance, Rock River Canyon is botanically a wonderland. And because of the many microhabitats afforded as a result of the steep canyon walls, the calcareous sand, and the springs, it's a tremendously diverse area botanically, that is, the number of different plant species is unusually high. It is also a very fragile area.

The Upper Peninsula is sought by many to be uncut and untamed. In fact, most of it has been cut and logged many times over. Large tracks of land, even in the Upper Peninsula, in a relatively disturbed and undeveloped state are very special commodities. The areas that are proposed represent these very special commodities.

Some have suggested that since the U.S. Forest Service is currently managing these areas as wilderness without official designation, perhaps we don't need official designation.

However, management of these areas comes up for review every 10 years. The wind may blow differently in 10 years, leaving these areas unprotected.

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Forest supervisors for these national forests may find themselves recipients of much local pressure from those with vested interests in rescinding protection.

My contention is that decisions on how to manage these areas should be made without such influences. Wilderness designation of these areas precludes this problem.

I'd like to digress from my text for just a minute. I have a son who is five, and who is very interested in animals, as most five year old children are; whenever he discovers a new animal that he's not familiar with invariably one of the first questions he asks me is, what good is it?

I have much difficulty, personally, justifying the existence of plants and animals based on their merits to man. I feel the same way about wilderness.

We humans have been very successful in manipulating our environment to suit our needs. Michigan's proposed wilderness areas are small parcels that have escaped this manipulation. These areas encompass about 3 percent of the Upper Peninsula's National Forest. I don't feel any difficulty in requesting the existence of only 3 percent of our U.P. National Forest as wilderness.

We spent several years and much money on this issue, and it's still unresolved. If our reasons for now designating these areas as wilderness include the concerns for loss of productivity and jobs, it seems to me we should instead be wondering about and acting on the effects of acid rain in our forests. Acid rain appears to have the capability of putting out of production more than just a few thousand acres of U.P. land. It threatens vast areas of the entire Eastern United States.

Thank you again for letting me address this issue; I feel very strongly about it.

Mr. VOLKMER. Thank you very much.

The next witness, Ms. Iverson.

STATEMENT OF SARAH MILES IVERSON, ON BEHALF OF THE LES CHENEAUX ISLAND ASSOCIATION

Ms. IVERSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee.

I am Sarah Miles Iverson, I am speaking on behalf of the Les Cheneaux Island Association which represents 300 families in Les Cheneaux area.

The Les Cheneaux Islands are a chain of 35 islands located in bays along northern Lake Huron in eastern Mackinac County, where nearby communities include the towns of Cedarville and Hessel.

I appreciate the chance to speak to this subcommittee on the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act. I would like to thank Representative Dale Kildee and cosponsors for supporting this bill.

H.R. 148 will designate many tracts of land in northern Michigan as protected wilderness areas. This legislation will preserve these areas of magnificent forest and wilderness for generations to come, and will prohibit commercial and/or private development as well as the harvesting of timber.

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I understand that the U.S. Forest Service is not supporting the inclusion of two tracts of land currently in this bill, and that the Senate bill also excludes these two areas. These are, namely, Government Island, a 214 acre island in the Les Cheneaux chain; and Delirium, a large wetland tract nearby in the easter Upper Peninsula.

Congressman Kildee is well justified to include these two areas in the Wilderness Act, and I urge you today to give serious consideration to the inclusion of these in the bill.

Dating back to my great grandparents, my family has had the privilege of enjoying the Les Cheneaux Islands or the Voyagers' Islands. In the recent past, I've had the opportunity to camp, hike, sail, and cross-country ski in many areas of the United States, and have yet to find a place with as much charm, fresh water, good winds and wooded areas as that of the Les Cheneaux Islands and other parts of the Upper Peninsula. I believe this attitude is felt by all those who have access to these areas.

Unfortunately, all but one of the 35 islands in the Les Cheneaux chain are privately owned. Government Island is the single publicly-held island, and thus, remains natural and undeveloped, and free from cabins, resorts, and cottages. Its large protected bay is a haven to cruising sailboats and, currently, primitive campgrounds are available to campers with permits. Access to the island is possible only by boat or across ice during winter. The island is secluded and unspoiled with natural shorelines and wonderful opportunity to experience nature for both tourists and year-round residents of the mainland, who otherwise have little opportunity to access these islands. Even for the islanders themselves, it provides the only chance to see the Voyagers Wilderness almost as it once was. Boaters and campers have brought needed business to the towns of Cedarville and Hessel.

It is my understanding that the U.S. Forest Service has questioned the ability of Government Island to serve as a wilderness experience, due to sights and sounds of human activity from passing boats and other islands.

From first-hand experience, I know these senses to be minimal and one easily feels secluded there. As Michael Kellett said, one of the islands nearby is virtually uninhabited; and the other island is far enough away, but boat traffic generally hugs its shore because of the deep inlet of Government Bay. And in any case, the winds are usually too high for anyone to hear neighboring sound.

Traffic is certainly less than that which confronts Round Island, an island already allowed wilderness designation by the Forest Service.

Government Island is dense with forest growth, and includes a wide array of ferns and wild flowers. It is home and refuge to birds such as the magnificent pileated woodpecker and many species of song birds and waterfowl, as well as white-tailed deer, mink, fox, and other small mammals. Fish species are plentiful in the adjacent waters.

Habitat itself is little affected by normal sights and sounds. In this day and age we are faced with all types of wilderness experiences available to us, many of which includes some sights and sounds of other human activity.

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However, as long as the habitat is there, we can accept these as part of the world we live in. The nature experience is still irreplaceable.

The Forest Service, in whose hands these tracts of land will remain, if not included in this bill, has indicated that they will be maintained as in the past for at least the next few years.

I question, however, why the Forest Service would want this land and be willing to spend money on it, if it is only to remain protected and undeveloped. As recently as 25 years ago Government Island was lumbered by the Forest Service and only now are stands of the great white pine and other trees coming back.

At one time the Les Cheneaux Islands were inhabited by nesting bald eagles, which have long since departed due to the extensive cutting that has taken place. As recently as last summer, sightings have occurred of balk eagles in the Upper Peninsula, and in fact, flying over the Les Cheneaux waters. It is quite possible that if we finally allowed some forest, such as that of Government Island, to reach old growth stage with trees tall enough, we could even see the return of a nesting pair.

We also include the valuable tract of wetland, the Dilirium area, in our request for wilderness status. This area is in close proximity to the Les Cheneaux, Cedarville and Hessel area, and is recognized by our community as important wildlife to habitat and as a unique wilderness area worth visiting.

There is presently no active community to defend this land, and it is thus entirely at the mercy of a government agency.

In conclusion, our association would like to secure and to continue to share these few remnants of the wilderness. We cannot support the lack of a true long-term commitment to preserving this land by the Forest Service, nor can we accept the ever-present threat of its harvesting or more likely turning over of the land to private developers such as has occurred recently with Lime Island and the St. Marys River by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

We ask you again to include these lands in the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act. We thank you for your time and for your consideration.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Iverson appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. VOLKMER. Thank you very much, Ms. Iverson.

Now, Mr. and Mrs. Forester. Is it Mr. Forester or Mrs. Forester who has the statement or both of you?

Mr. FORESTER. I have a written statement.

Mrs. FORESTER. And I have something to say.

Mr. VOLKMER. OK. Mrs. Forester, you go right ahead.

STATEMENT OF JOAN FORESTER, HAMLIN LAKE ASSOCIATION

Mrs. FORESTER. Good. I live on Nurenberg Road, and that's right in the middle of the Nordhouse Dunes. I have lived there for 40 years of my adult life. I wish to speak specifically to the Nordhouse Dunes, and to the watershed that flows into Lake Michigan, and flows into Upper Hamlin Lake.

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Believing that a picture is worth a thousand words, I have prepared some pictures for you to look at while I'm speaking.

To drill or not to drill, that is the question. As a founding member of the Hamlin Lake Association, I thought instead of giving my point of view, I would read to you some of the letters written to the DNR opposing drilling in the Nordhouse Dunes.

Oil drilling in wilderness are not compatible. The wilderness area is irreplaceable, even considered in economic terms, it is shortsighted to alter, and in many ways destroys permanently an area which has already proven to provide a steady flow of long-term renewable recreational income to Mason County.

Ludington State Park is one of the most popular in the State. The Federal campground is superior, and generally filled to capacity during the summer season.

Hamlin Lake provides a sizable residential area which generally contributes more in taxes than it subtracts in services.

The quality of all of these areas would diminish in the presence of oil facilities, even if the operation was planned with environmental safeguards.

One can only shutter to think of the potential for accidents that would result in irreplaceable damage to the watershed. Oil drilling is a short economic proposition, which long term leaves only a lasting environmental destruction to mark the financial gain of a relatively few people.

Please do not permit oil drilling in the Nordhouse Dunes and the Hamlin Lake Watershed.

In a relatively small area accessible to all people, several biotic communities are represented such as the Barrier Dunes, wetlands, meadows. I have known the area since 1923. And my special interest is birds—of the 350 species of birds recorded in Michigan, more than 250 have been seen here.

Drilling operations disrupt the environment, regardless of the care taken. Degradation of the air quality will be caused by the release of hydrogen sulfide and possible water pollution of Hamlin Lake Watershed is a real consideration in the present drilling.

Please do not drill in the dunes.

Tracts of dune buggies that have not been allowed on the dunes for many years are still visible as we hike to Lake Michigan across the dunes, thus indicating the fragility of the area—oil rigs would be disastrous.

We would love to have this area available for the enjoyment of our great grandchildren, as it now is enjoyed by our children.

We believe oil drilling in its consequences would also discourage tourism. The old pine trunks on the dunes which have been dated to 5,000 years, and this is the time these wonderful systems have endured. It only takes one oil operator to undo this great ecological area. This should not be allowed until we are really desperate for this kind of energy and have exhausted all other forms. And when we have cut back on our use of energy to the extent that we did before OPEC raised its prices.

Please do everything that you can do to stop this monstrous destruction for a quick profit for one operator.

In 1946 I purchased our Hamlin Lake property. The only pollution we had in our section of the lake was the green bloom of the

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weed in late August. Let us not spoil this beautiful clear lake, used by and enjoyed by thousands of people for recreational purposes, by permitting this company to pollute the area. For the last 20 years plus they have been filling our air with gas escaping from their wells east of Hamlin Lake.

So, my families and neighbors say a big, no, to any further oil drilling in the Hamlin Lake Nordhouse Dunes Area. We have thousands of signatures from people who have used the wilderness campsite that we would be willing to submit to the record.

The association which is 250-paying members represents a unanimous vote against any kind of development, and a unanimous vote for the wilderness bill. Thousands of people, hundreds of thousands of people have joined with us to ask that you make this area a wilderness area. The township board has unanimously voted for the last 4 years not to have anymore drilling in the Hamlin Township.

As I traveled here I crossed six States and I talked to waitresses and innkeepers and docents in historical shrines, and every single one of them wished me and you good luck.

I beg of you, and I beseech you on the behalf of all of the people out there who can't find their way through the bureaucratic structures, who can't find their way to Washington or can't afford it, to take the taxpayers money of which you are such wonderful stewards, and we beech you to spend it, if necessary to buy wilderness.

I can assure you that the people want wilderness. And the people, you and I, need wilderness.

Please I beseech you, give us wilderness.

Mr. VOLKMER. Thank you very much, Mrs. Forester. Now, Mr. Forester.

STATEMENT OF JOHN FORESTER, PRESIDENT, MICHIGAN LAKE AND STREAM ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

Mr. FORESTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, my name is John P. Forester. I reside in Ludington, Michigan. I am president of Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Incorporated, which is an organization of 151 riparian organizations. It's a parent organization of other organizations throughout the State of Michigan, representing approximately 20,000 people.

I am also president of the Hamlin Lake Association, about which Mrs. Forester just spoke.

I will submit prepared testimony; however, I am going to address a couple of issues which have come up in these hearings.

I am going to do this because I haven't heard anybody so far, either as a witness or from the subcommittee, say that Nordhouse Dunes was not qualified as a wilderness area. It is absolutely precious, irreplaceable. When one speaks of things of this nature, you speak in superlatives.

John Roethele said it's the largest area of sand dunes on a fresh water lake in the world. It's the largest area of interdunal wetlands in the world. It is archeologically important. There is evidence that the Indians traversed this area. There are campgrounds, trails, burial sites, which even antedate our historical record. It is valuable historically. It is something that's got to be saved for

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future generations. They don't print any more of it. If this is gone, there is no more.

It looks today, we are told, very much as Father Marquette saw it when the French explored this area hundreds of years ago.

Now, I don't want to spend any more time talking about wilderness, because I think everybody here, as far as I've heard, agrees that this is it, and it must be preserved.

The Forest Service said, well, there are private mineral rights, and we really don't want to spend the money on private mineral rights. I say, if it is necessary to spend money to purchase those mineral rights, then Congress should do so or the Forest Service should do so, and should do so without hesitation.

We recently had public hearings on the environmental impact statement on the Nordhouse Dunes, to drill or not to drill, about which Mr. Roethele spoke. I believe the chairman has a copy of the EIS.

Mr. Roethele at one of the hearings stated that he was getting mail at the rate of at least 25 letters per day, all opposed to oil drilling in the Nordhouse Dunes Area. And the conclusion of that EIS is that oil drilling and wilderness—a compatible, a quality environment—are absolutely opposed. You can't have a quality environment in the presence of oil drilling.

I don't want to dwell on that either. I do want to point out that there were organizations—there are organizations, including the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, the League of Women Voters, to go down the list—there were over 17 organizations in a coalition called the Michigan Environmental Council—opposing any degradation of the Nordhouse Dunes Area. Those organizations represent over 500,000 individuals in the State of Michigan.

Mr. Roethele was unwilling to come down hard on Governor Blanchard's position; however, I will take the risk of saying that I have letters, and there are letters in the beginning of that EIS, in which Governor Blanchard says that this area is absolutely priceless and must be preserved. And whether Governor Blanchard will say that publicly right now, I don't know, but I am sure that if you're having a drink with him in his home of an evening, he's going to tell you, "Don't let anything happen to that area."

Now if I may just continue about how are mineral rights dealt with, and how are they treated in the State of Michigan.

The Michigan Constitution says that the environment, the protection of the air and water and other natural resources, is paramount, and the Constitution directs the legislature to pass laws protecting the air, water, and the environment.

Michigan was the first State in the United States to pass the Michigan Environmental Protection Act, which says that even if there is a likelihood of impairing the air, water, or other natural resources, a court can enjoin that activity. I won't go on to spell that out. They are subject to other requirements. But that is basically the position of the State of Michigan.

If this bill is passed, in my opinion—and I have been a lawyer of 38 years—you would not have a taking by the Federal Government, because the bill provides that mineral rights shall be preserved and protected as they exist today.

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If oil drilling—and that's what we're talking about—is denied, it's going to be denied not because Congress passes a wilderness bill. The Forest Service really has no authority to say you can't exercise your mineral rights. But the State of Michigan can protect the air, water, and other resources, and that is the basis of the power that Mr. Roethele is talking about when the department of natural resources considers whether the rights of a few individuals are important or whether or not the rights of the hundreds of thousands of people, the public trust, if you will, does not come ahead of the exercise of these mineral rights. And as I say, if the State of Michigan has to buy them, or if there has to be litigation about whether there's a taking, so be it.

But I think it is important for Congress, as the steward of our natural resources, to come down and say, "Yes, this is a wilderness. There is no more like it, and it must be preserved."

Now, Mr. Chairman, I have one other very important thing. I know the red light is on, but I would like another minute. I just learned of this 10 days ago.

There is an institute at Waterloo, Ontario University called the Institute for Groundwater Research. Professor John A. Cherry is head of that organization. He is one of the two or three most respected ground water experts, hydrologists, in the world. He did some tests. He dug 1,500 holes 30 feet deep in a sand aquifer that was contaminated and polluted with hydrocarbon toxic substances. He found that you could pump out the water for 10 years, and that you would only purge 2 percent of the toxic substances with which that ground water aquifer had been contaminated. And his findings are—and this is startling, but these figures are correct—that it would take 2,000 to 12,000 years by pumping out with the technique that's used today to purge a ground water aquifer that has been contaminated with toxic substances of a hydrocarbon nature.

Representing Michigan Lake and Streams, we are interested in clean air and clean water, and we say that Congress can actually lead the way in environmental protection and say to the rest of the Nation, "These resources are valuable, irreplaceable, and they must be preserved."

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Forester appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. VOLKMER. Thank you very much, Mr. Forester. I have just a few questions.

Ms. Woiwode, as I review your statement, it appears that there is a good chance that there can be a meeting of the minds on Delirium; is that correct.

Ms. WOIWODE. Yes. And Government Island.

Mr. VOLKMER. And Government Island on the sanitary and issues like that.

Ms. WOIWODE. Yes. Michael Kellett and I were part of a negotiation process that was begun last Friday between interest groups and the Hiawatha National Forest, and at that time, and as I note in my testimony, we realized the Forest Service is bound by its final plan until such time as an amendment is adopted by it.

But at that time, we reached an agreement with those in the Forest about what they felt would be an acceptable amendment to

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the plan that would allow them to support these areas for designation.

So obviously we can't presuppose what's going to happen at the regional level or the national level of the Forest Service, but we did reach an agreement within the setting in St. Agnes.

Mr. VOLKMER. Now will those require any amendment to the bill itself?

Ms. WOIWODE. No. There is a possibility that there might be a need for some kind of clarification in language, would be my understanding, for instance, on the Les Cheneaux Area.

But in the Delirium Area, it would be a border adjustment that could be addressed in the drawing of the map, and that would be what's called a cherry stem into the dam at Sylvester Pond. That area, then, would be open for management by the Forest Service, closed off to general public access.

So we believe that it would be doable under the current language, would be my understanding, but I would certainly defer to others who have more knowledge.

Mr. VOLKMER. We'll doublecheck that. And that's the same cherry stem basically that Congressman Kildee addressed.

Ms. WOIWODE. That's right.

Mr. VOLKMER. All right. And then the only other problem area goes back to the Nordhouse Dunes Area.

Ms. WOIWODE. Yes.

Mr. VOLKMER. And the natural gas. Other than that, everything else is fine and dandy; is that correct?

Ms. WOIWODE. Yes. I think what's remarkable in Michigan is that there is a tremendous consensus on the majority of the areas, that since the RARE II process was completed, and there's been an opportunity over the past 8 years to try to address the issues raised through that, I think we've seen groups like the timber industry come to realize that this is not a threat to them, that, in fact, these areas were not touched because they were, in large part, not good for timbering, and that's one reason why they tend to be the undisturbed areas that are appropriate for wilderness now.

Mr. VOLKMER. It has nothing to do with this wilderness area, but you did address another issue in your statement, and that is the trail in the Ottawa area.

Ms. WOIWODE. Yes.

Mr. VOLKMER. Do you believe that that can be reconciled without any difficulty or not?

Ms. WOIWODE. Yes. I think that, again, would probably be—lend itself to language in the—the committee language that just would direct that the Forest Service could allow the trail to go through the Sturgeon River Gorge.

Evidently it's within a guide on management from the Forest Service that this was set, so intention from Congress, stated through the language——

Mr. VOLKMER. Well, we may not even have to put it in the bill. We may be able to put that in a report. I mean, just give direction to the Forest Service. I think that would be possible, to do it in a report from the committee.

Ms. WOIWODE. That would be fine.

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Mr. VOLKMER. It makes sense, what you're saying. What I read there, if that's true, if the Forest Service verifies all that, it just makes sense, what you're proposing to do.

Ms. WOIWODE. Right.

Mr. VOLKMER. I have no further questions.

The gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. SCHUETTE. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just want to thank my Michigan friends for coming here, and it's very nice to see you again, Mr. Kellett. You've, I think, shared some interesting facts and figures on the Delirium question particularly, which I appreciate.

And, Ms. Schultz, my sister has a biology degree from Central Michigan as well, so I'm pleased that you're here.

I am familiar with the Hessel area, Ms. Iverson, and I appreciated your comments.

And the Foresters, my appreciation and fondness for the Ludington, West Michigan side. I sure appreciated your sentiments, plus, Counselor, your comments on the legalities involved.

And I have a strong appreciation for the sentiments that you all have shared today in a well-articulated fashion and concur that our natural resources in our State, Michigan's natural resources, are truly an asset that I care deeply about.

One quick question, Ann, if I may. Do I discern a difference of opinion between you and Mr. Kellett concerning the possibility of the DNR prohibiting drilling on Nordhouse Dunes, as not whether or not there would be need for congressional designation on wilderness or not? Do I see a difference of opinion in your testimonies or not, or am I misreading it?

Ms. WOIWODE. No, I——

Mr. SCHUETTE. There's a question of mootness that, Mr. Kellett, you raised. I'm not sure whether you're raising the mootness issue.

Ms. WOIWODE. No. I think that the point that was raised by Mr. Kellett is right, that if the DNR action will occur whether or not Federal action occurs, and the two really do not restrict one another.

The DNR can act to restrict oil drilling in this area or allow it. The Forest Service has oversight of the surface rights of the area, so their concern is different from that of the DNR.

I think if the department acts to ban drilling in this area, then I wouldn't see that the Federal Government would need to be involved in that at all in terms of either the buyout of rights or any kind of management concern. In fact, the Forest Service is reserving action on any proposal in that area until the DNR action is completed.

They went through the joint collection of information with the DNR, but they are waiting to do any EIS to see whether it would be needed, based on what happens in the Forest Service—I mean in the DNR action.

Mr. SCHUETTE. Well, Ann, thank you very much, and thank you, panelists, for coming today and sharing your thoughts.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back my time.

Mr. VOLKMER. All right. The gentleman from Louisiana.

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Mr. HOLLOWAY. I just have a question. I guess I'm going to address it to Mrs. Forester, after looking through the pictures, which are very beautiful.

But I fail to see a picture of a completed well in there. It looks like we make all the negative——

Mrs. FORESTER. A picture of a what?

Mr. HOLLOWAY. Of a well that's completed and operating.

Mr. VOLKMER. No operating wells.

Mrs. FORESTER. That was not the Nordhouse Dunes. That was to show you——

Mr. HOLLOWAY. I realize that. But also I'm very familiar with many, many wells where natural things take place all around them.

Mrs. FORESTER. Oh, I see. You want to see it capped, or you want to see it——

Mr. HOLLOWAY. Sure. I like to just see them when a good company has completed a well and shows how a good oil well can operate in the environment with all the natural surroundings around it.

Mrs. FORESTER. We're not familiar with that, sir. We haven't seen that happen in our area. All the wells that operate around Hamlin Township are smelly. You call the DNR and say, "Please come," and they come, and nothing happens, and they're noisy, and they're polluting the ground water, and they take the sludge, and they take it over to old wetlands and stick it down rusty pipes and send it right back down into the ground water.

We don't experience a pleasantness with oil drilling at all in our area.

Mr. HOLLOWAY. I guess what I'm really saying to you, that everyone seems to say that "we want to stay warm, but go drill down your way." You know, I think that's the general feeling, and I am an environmentalist, and I do believe that industry and environment have to operate together. I think we have to operate as a country with environment and industry operating together, and it looks, just sometimes, that everybody wants to send it other places.

Mrs. FORESTER. Well, it's already going on a lot. I appreciate your sentiments. And yes, I do want to keep warm, and I like driving my car.

But that's not what's at issue here, because there are plenty of oil wells all around Hamlin Township. It's just that we don't want it in the area that's been designated as wilderness. That is rather pristine and rather precious for all stated reasons. And if they want oil and gas, there's a lot of places that they're already pumping.

And they also gamble. When they get those mineral rights, and they—I just found that out. It's a gamble. You explore, and you——

Mr. HOLLOWAY. Of course, it is.

Mrs. FORESTER. And you look up the word "explore" in the dictionary, and that means that you sort of take a chance.

Mr. HOLLOWAY. Well, there's nothing in life, I don't think, that we don't do that on. So, that's no different from everything.

But, there will be a day when we will be over 50 percent dependent on foreign oil, and, I guess I could use this as my line on this committee, we need to try to encourage the production of ethanol

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and try to encourage the production of clean domestic fuels that we can produce in this country.

I fail sometimes to see how we can always expect the other guy to produce the wells and have the waste all around. That's really basically my only question, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. VOLKMER. Does the gentleman from Oregon have any questions?

Mr. SMITH. No questions, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. VOLKMER. All right. Yes, Mr. Kellett?

Mr. KELLETT. Thank you. I'd just like to say one thing. I think it's a legitimate point, and this is something environmentalists especially think a lot about, the fact that there is a potential conflict between oil development and preservation of the environment.

What we are dealing with here, and the representatives of the oil industry haven't denied this, is probably about a day's worth of oil at best for Michigan, under this small little piece of land. What we are really concerned about is this small little piece of land. What we are saying is we are not against all drilling, we don't think that it's—there can be negative aspects to drilling, but we are not saying don't drill. We're just saying don't drill here, because we think that the long-term value of this place is too high to allow drilling. And maybe some day we will be able to drill without—you know, from 1 or 2 miles away, and then it won't even be a problem. But I think that's the point that we feel is important about this.

Mr. VOLKMER. OK. Thank you very much.

I have one further question before we close of Ms. Iverson.

You are from the Government Island-Les Cheneaux area, and I forgot to ask Mr. Leonard, about how much present use is made of that island? Do you have any idea?

Ms. IVERSON. Government Island?

Mr. VOLKMER. Yes, and Les Cheneaux.

Ms. IVERSON. From what I know of it, it's simply permanent campers, and I believe four groups only allowed at a time on the island. And if one is the general passer-by, one never sees anyone on Government Island. And as far as any direct access to it, the only thing really close by you that you see are some of the sailboats, some of the larger sailboats that are cruising the waters that have anchored somewhere out in the bay. But other than that, it's daily activities and camping groups, but it still remains very pristine and very undisturbed.

Mr. VOLKMER. So it's not a thing where people from adjoining—I notice the mainland is not too far from the island, and the——

Ms. IVERSON. No, they can come over. The problem with the other islands is that people from the mainland have no access to them because all shoreline is privately owned by either cottages or——

Mr. VOLKMER. Yes, but not on this island.

Ms. IVERSON. Not on this island. So they are able to come over and camp if they like, or explore.

Mr. VOLKMER. But do they have any boat harbors or anything like that for boats to put in?

Ms. IVERSON. No—well, there's an old dock, but often groups canoe over. In fact, I believe the Boy Scouts even arrange a trip once a year and they come over by canoes. It is approachable from

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any of the other islands, and you can come in via sailboat or motorboat.

Mr. VOLKMER. How large is the population for the mainland, from the two towns, approximately?

Ms. IVERSON. That I could not tell you.

Mr. VOLKMER. I'm just curious, I just wondered in my mind whether it's like certain areas that I know, where it's close and you could have access to it, possibly have maybe 500 or 600 people a day going over there. That isn't what we are looking at, is it?

Ms. IVERSON. I'm not sure what the figure is, actually.

Mr. VOLKMER. All right.

Ms. WOIWODE. If I might.

Mr. VOLKMER. Yes, if you know. If anybody knows, I'd like to know.

Ms. WOIWODE. Well, just in general, the Cedarville area, which is the closest settlement, and it's not really what you would call a town, the entire area is primarily a summer resort type area, primarily with private homes, and I don't think that we'd ever see a huge influx across there. It's hard to get to the Les Cheneaux chain at all, and then you have to know where you're going. You have to get access to the water and that's not all that easy in that area. So it's not a very developed area at all.

Mr. VOLKMER. It's not an area where you would see a lot of water skiers out there and things like that, dropping off on the island?

Ms. IVERSON. There are actually a couple of channels off and away between the mainland and other islands that are more heavily populated. The area around Government Island is very unpopulated. You have to either get to it from the open lake, which is often very rough, and which is where the larger sailboats can travel, or from some of the adjoining islands, and there is only one island which is very populated at all.

Mr. VOLKMER. OK.

Well, I thank all of you very much. You have been very helpful, and we appreciate it.

That will conclude the hearing and the subcommittee will stand adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 2:59 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

[Material submitted for inclusion in the record follows:]

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STATEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVE DALE E. KILDEE

MR. CHAIRMAN, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR HOLDING THIS HEARING ON MY BILL, H.R. 148, THE MICHIGAN WILDERNESS HERITAGE ACT OF 1987. AS A CHAIRMAN OF A SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE MYSELF, I KNOW HOW DIFFICULT IT CAN BE TO PULL TOGETHER A HEARING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. I ALSO APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE SCHEDULED YOUR HEARING FOR THE SAME WEEK AS THE INTERIOR COMMITTEE HEARING ON H.R 148 SO THAT THE WITNESSES WHO HAVE TRAVELED FROM MICHIGAN COULD TESTIFY BEFORE BOTH COMMITTEES ON THE SAME TRIP.

WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT FOR THE RECORD THE WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 148 BY SEVERAL OF THE ORIGINAL CO-SPONSORS OF THE BILL, REPRESENTATIVES CARL PURSELL, DAVID BONIOR AND PAUL HENRY. I ALSO HAVE A STATEMENT FROM MICHIGAN GOVERNOR JAMES BLANCHARD, WHO HAS BEEN VERY SUPPORTIVE OF THIS LEGISLATION FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THIS BILL IS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THE BILL WHICH THE HOUSE PASSED OVERWHELMINGLY IN THE 99TH CONGRESS. H.R. 148 DESIGNATES AS NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS SOME 92,000 ACRES, LESS THAN 3.3 PERCENT OF MICHIGAN'S THREE NATIONAL FORESTS. MICHIGAN, WITH MORE FOREST SERVICE LAND THAN ANY OTHER STATE EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, CURRENTLY HAS NO NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS.

THE ELEVEN PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS INCLUDE UNIQUE EXAMPLES OF MICHIGAN'S VARIED FLORA, FAUNA AND GEOGRAPHY. SOME OF THE LAST REMAINING STANDS OF VIRGIN FOREST IN MICHIGAN AND THE MANY RARE AND THREATENED PLANT SPECIES FOUND IN THESE AREAS PROVIDE HABITAT FOR BALD EAGLES, MOOSE, BLACK BEAR, WHITE-TAILED DEER, SANDHILL CRANES, GREAT BLUE HERONS AND MANY OTHER VARIETIES OF WILDLIFE. THE AREAS CONTAIN RIVER CANYONS HUNDREDS OF FEET DEEP FILLED WITH WILD RIVERS, WATERFALLS AND WETLANDS; LAKESHORE SAND DUNES AND BEACHES; WINTER ICE CAVES AND CHAINS OF GRANITE-RIMMED LAKES.

MR. CHAIRMAN, FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, I HAVE BELIEVED THAT WE NEEDED TO STRIKE A BALANCE WITH THIS LEGISLATION BETWEEN THE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MICHIGAN'S NATURAL RESOURCES. I BELIEVE THAT THE TREMENDOUS SUPPORT FOR H.R. 148 FROM ELEVEN OF MY COLLEAGUES IN THE MICHIGAN DELEGATION, BOTH DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS; FROM GOVERNOR BLANCHARD; FROM NATIONAL AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS; AND FROM THE TIMBER INDUSTRY IN MICHIGAN ARE AMPLE PROOF THAT WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ACHIEVING THAT BALANCE.

I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT THE TIMBER INDUSTRY HAS ENDORSED MY BILL. IN APRIL OF 1985, THE MICHIGAN FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL VOTED 14 TO 1 IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 148. THE COUNCIL, COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MAJOR TIMBER-PRODUCING AND -USING COMPANIES IN MICHIGAN, ADVISES GOVERNOR BLANCHARD IN HIS EFFORTS TO EXPAND MICHIGAN'S TIMBER INDUSTRY. MR. CHAIRMAN, WITH THE COMMITTEE'S PERMISSION, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION AND LETTER PART OF THE COMMITTEE RECORD.

DURING MEETINGS HELD IN MY OFFICE EARLIER THIS YEAR, REPRESENTATIVES OF MICHIGAN'S TIMBER INDUSTRY REITERATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR H.R. 148 AND THEIR STRONG DESIRE TO SEE THE WILDERNESS ISSUE IN MICHIGAN'S THREE NATIONAL FORESTS RESOLVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE TIMBER INDUSTRY IN MICHIGAN REALIZES THAT THE DESIGNATION OF THESE ELEVEN AREAS AS WILDERNESS WILL HAVE A NEGLIGIBLE IMPACT ON THEIR OPERATIONS. MOREOVER, THE BILL WILL RELEASE SOME 22,000 ACRES FOR POTENTIAL TIMBER HARVEST AND PROVIDE THE INDUSTRY WITH THE CERTITUDE THEY NEED TO PLAN THEIR FUTURE OPERATIONS.

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THE NORDHOUSE DUNES AREA IS THE ONLY ONE OF THE ELEVEN AREAS LOCATED IN MICHIGAN'S LOWER PENINSULA, AND IT ENJOYS WIDE PUBLIC SUPPORT. ON OCTOBER 9, 1986, THE MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION, WHICH OVERSEES THE OPERATIONS OF THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, UNANIMOUSLY PASSED A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING WILDERNESS DESIGNATION FOR THE NORDHOUSE DUNES AREA. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE COMMISSION'S RESOLUTION PART OF THE COMMITTEE RECORD.

THE FOREST SERVICE HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING THE PRIVATELY-OWNED SUBSURFACE RIGHTS UNDERLYING A PORTION OF THE NORDHOUSE DUNES AREA. THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES HAS WORKED TOGETHER WITH THE FOREST SERVICE TO COLLECT DATA FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON A PROPOSAL BY A LOCAL OIL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY TO DRILL FOR OIL AND GAS IN THE NORDHOUSE DUNES AREA. UNDER STATE OF MICHIGAN LAW, THE DNR HAS BROAD AUTHORITY TO ISSUE OR DENY PERMITS FOR SUCH DRILLING.

SHOULD THE DNR DENY A DRILLING PERMIT, A WORKABLE ALTERNATIVE TO ON-SITE DRILLING WITHIN THE PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA WOULD BE TO HAVE THE OIL COMPANY SLANT DRILL FROM OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NORDHOUSE DUNES AREA. THE DNR'S DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT POINTED OUT THAT, GIVEN THE SMALL SIZE AND NARROWNESS OF THE AREA, SLANT DRILLING IS AN OPTION WHICH SHOULD BE STRONGLY CONSIDERED.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT A FINAL DECISION ON THE PERMIT REQUEST WILL BE MADE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE STATE WILL SEEK TO RESTRICT DRILLING IN OR AROUND THE NORDHOUSE DUNES AREA IN SUCH A MANNER SO AS TO PRESERVE THE AREA'S CHARACTERISTICS WHICH MAKE IT SO SUITABLE FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.

MR. CHAIRMAN, SOME PEOPLE HAVE QUESTIONED THE NEED FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION FOR THESE ELEVEN UNIQUE AREAS IN MICHIGAN. THEY CITE THE AUTHORITY THE FOREST SERVICE HAS TO ADMINISTER THE AREAS IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO WILDERNESS. HOWEVER, AS YOU AND I BOTH KNOW, CONGRESS IS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE NATION. WE MUST SET POLICY FOR THE EXECUTIVE AGENCIES TO IMPLEMENT. BY APPROVING H.R. 148, THE CONGRESS WILL PERMANENTLY SET ASIDE THESE ELEVEN AREAS TO BE PRESERVED MUCH AS THEY CAME FROM THE HAND OF GOD. THEY WILL BE PROTECTED NOT ONLY FROM MAN-MADE DISTURBANCES BUT ALSO FROM CHANGES IN THE BUREAUCRATIC WHIMS OF EACH NEW ADMINISTRATION HERE IN WASHINGTON. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR HOLDING THIS HEARING ON THE MICHIGAN WILDERNESS HERITAGE ACT OF 1987.

(Attachments follow:)

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MICHIGAN FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

P.O. BOX 30028, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909 PHONE (517) 373-1272

April 8, 1985

Ronald O. Skoog
Department of Natural Resources
Doug Ross
Department of Commerce
Paul Kindinger
Department of Agriculture
James Lacy
Abitibi-Price Corporation
John Rhodes
Rhodes Furniture Manufacturing, Inc.
Larry Peters
Governor's Counsel
Earl St. John, Jr.
St. John Forest Products, Inc.
Lawrence G. Hintzel
Minnesota Corporation
Larry W. Tombaugh
Department of Forestry
Michigan State University
Susan Pomerantz
Missouri Chapter of the Sierra Club
Richard L. Shaw
Champion International Corporation
Max E. Skaggs
Furniture Manufacturers Association
of Grand Rapids
Stanley Johns
Tree Farmer & Consultant Forester
Peter Grieves
Michigan Association of Timbermen
Carolyn Van Sweden
Michigan Forest Association
Warren E. Frayer
School of Forestry & Wood Products
Michigan Technological University
Howard Hess
Weyerhaeuser Company
Ernest J. Vosen
Mead Paper Company

Honorable James J. Blanchard
Governor of Michigan
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Blanchard:

Congressman Kildee recently introduced legislation (HR 148) which designates certain public lands in Michigan as wilderness. The Forest Products Industry Development Council reviewed and discussed the proposed legislation at its last meetings.

The council's position on this issue was adopted at the April 3 meeting It supports HR 148 in concept and supporrs he designation of the areas listed for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System contingent upon 1) inclusion of language in the legislation releasing remaining RARE II lands for multiple use management and 2) prohibiting the U S. Department of Agriculture from conducting further statewide roadless area reviews and evaluations of National Forest System lands in Michigan for the purpose of determining their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The council further recommends that you reaffirm that there will be no attempt now or in the future, to change air quality standards from Class II to Class I as a result of this legislation.

Thank you for your attention in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Peter Grieves

Peter Grieves
Chairperson

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II.

POSITION

MICHIGAN FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Michigan Forest Products Industry Development Council supports HR 148 in concept and supports the designation of the areas listed for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System contingent upon 1) inclusion of language in the legislation releasing remaining RARE II lands for multiple use management and 2) prohibiting the U.S. Department of Agriculture from conducting further statewide roadless area reviews and evaluations of National Forest System lands in Michigan for the purpose of determining their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The council further recommends that the Governor reaffirm that there will be no attempt, now or in the future, to change air quality standards from Class II to Class I as a result of this legislation.

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Resolution approved by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission

Unanimously - October 9, 1986

WHEREAS, the Michigan Natural Resources Commission strongly objects to the removal of the wilderness designation for the Nordhouse Dunes from the pending Michigan Wilderness Heritage Bill; and

WHEREAS, the Nordhouse Dunes are an excellent example of Great Lakes dunes ecology. They are the largest area of fragile, unique, and undisturbed fresh water dunes anywhere on the earth and must be included in the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Bill; and

WHEREAS, although there are public disagreements over other areas in Michigan being included as wilderness, the Nordhouse Dunes area has the greatest amount of public support of all the areas.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Commission is dedicated to the preservation of Michigan dunes, and requests the inclusion of the Nordhouse Dunes as a wilderness area in any legislation designating Michigan national forest areas.

O. Stewart Myers, Chairman
Thomas J. Anderson
Marlene J. Fluharty
Kerry Kammer
David D. Olson
Raymond Poupore

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STATEMENT OF

CONGRESSMAN CARL D. PURSELL

SECOND DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

Mr. Chairman, distinguished Members of the Committee, I thank you for permitting me to testify before you today in support of H.R. 148, the Michigan Wilderness Bill.

This is an important piece of legislation for Michigan. According to the Sierra Club, there currently is not a single acre of Michigan's vast National Forest tracts which is part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, a system that gives the necessary strong protection to wilderness areas. And those wilderness areas which are in the bill that are outside of the National Forests are overused. For instance, the fragile ecosystem of Isle Royal National Park, of the Keweenaw Peninsula in Lake Superior, recurrently has had to compete with overuse, despite being rather remote. Not only is it a Great Lake island, but it is far removed from any population center on the mainland as well. This is clear testimony to the genuine necessity for more wilderness area in Michigan.

We are not talking here about a lot of land. The total acreage is just over 90,000. That represents under one-third of one percent of Michigan's total land base. The great majority of the proposed wilderness areas are in the U.P., the Upper Peninsula. The proposed wilderness is less than one percent of the U.P.'s land base, just under three percent of the state's National Forest land, and just one-fifth of one percent of all Michigan's commercial forest land.

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Economic impact is one of the determinants of whether areas should be designated as wilderness. The statistics I've just cited, vis-a-vis the size of the proposed wilderness area in relation to total land base and forest land, indicate the small amount of land and forest the areas contained in the legislation include, both in relation to the entire land base of the state and the Upper Peninsula. In addition, the wilderness designation will not have any impact on air quality permitting of new industrial sites because of clean air regulations. Most of the acreage has a Class II PSD (Prevention of Significant Deterioration) designation under the Federal Clean Air Act. Two of the areas, Isle Royal National Park and the Seney National Wildlife Area, are Class I. Siting of power plants, for instance, has occurred in other regions of the country close of PSD Class I areas. Michigan's economy clearly will benefit from the designation of additional wilderness areas. A reasonable increase in wilderness areas, as this bill calls for, clearly will enhance the attractiveness of the parts of the state where these areas are located and the state as a whole as places to visit. This can only produce added economic advantage from enhanced tourist business.

Another determinant of wilderness designation is the effect it will have on people in the area. It should be pointed out that perimeters of the proposed areas have been established so that private property therein is excluded as much as possible.

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What we are talking about here, Mr. Chairman, is establishing a wilderness component of a land use program that is a balance of environmental protection and sensible development. Autos, snowmobiles, powerboats and other vehicles provide the means for many people to enjoy Michigan's natural resources. Extensive efforts are made to assure such opportunities. But there also should be areas where the canoe, snowshoe, and hiking boot prevail as the primary means of travel. It is important to preserve some wild areas where we can enjoy a non-mechanized nature experience and safeguard significant natural areas and wildlife habitats. Just as we encourage careful development in some areas, we should set aside other areas for preservation.

Mr. Chairman, I have long been a proponent of sound environmental policy -- throughout my public career. Legislation I previously have supported includes the Major Alaska Wilderness and Redwood Park Expansion bills. While a Member of the Michigan Senate, I authored the State's Resource Recovery Act and led a clean-up of dying Michigan recreational lakes. In that same vein, I urge the Committee's favorable consideration of H.R. 148, the Michigan Wilderness Bill.

The Roman lawyer and satirist Juvenal once said: "Nature and wisdom always say the same." Mr. Chairman, I consider approval of the Michigan Wilderness Bill a wise investment in our future. Thank you.

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STATEMENT OF
GEORGE M. LEONARD, ASSOCIATE CHIEF
FOREST SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Before the
Subcommittee on Forests, Family Farms and Energy
Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives

Concerning H.R. 148

March 18, 1987

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify for the Department of Agriculture regarding H.R. 148, a bill to designate certain public lands in the State of Michigan as wilderness, and for other purposes.

The Department of Agriculture recommends enactment of H.R. 148, if amended to delete wilderness designation for the Nordhouse Dunes area, the Delirium area, and the Les Cheneaux area.

The "Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act of 1987" would designate as wilderness one area on the Manistee National Forest, three areas on the Ottawa National Forest, and seven areas on the Hiawatha National Forest, for a total of 92,436 acres.

This bill reflects much of the thought which has gone into National Forest planning efforts in the State of Michigan, and it would create the first

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National Forest System wilderness in the State. The bill would designate as wilderness 11 of the 14 roadless areas inventoried in the State of Michigan. The remaining three roadless areas of about 21,560 acres would be released to be managed for other multiple uses according to Forest Plans. The three remaining areas are Bear Swamp, Huron-Manistee National Forest; Norwich Plains, Ottawa National Forest; and Fibre, Hiawatha National Forest.

Nordhouse Dunes, Manistee National Forest

H.R. 148 would designate 3,450 acres of the Manistee National Forest as the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness, including the recently acquired Sensibar Tract. The Forest Plan recommended 3,395 acres of this area for wilderness study. The most striking features of the area are the 3.6 miles of undeveloped Lake Michigan shoreline and the parallel sand dunes. The dunes are 140 feet high, and they surround small parcels and plateaus of woody vegetation. The varied environment provides hikers with a physically challenging and interesting experience. Nordhouse Dunes would be the first Federal wilderness in the Lower Penisula of Michigan.

There is high potential for the occurrence of natural gas underlying the Nordhouse Dunes area. Within the area proposed for wilderness, there are 1,985 acres of privately owned mineral rights and 675 acres of State owned mineral rights. Approximately 684 acres of the Federal mineral rights are currently under lease. If natural gas is discovered, the owners of the private mineral rights will almost cerainly want to exercise their rights. The value of these rights is unknown, but they could be worth several million dollars if

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gas is discovered. The State of Michigan has not developed a position on the State owned rights.

A General Accounting Office report published in July 1984 investigated the issue of private mineral rights located in eastern areas designated as wilderness. Most of the eastern wildernesses were purchased lands, and mineral rights were either outstanding or reserved in the grantors of the land or in third parties. The GAO report documented that over half of the minerals underlying wilderness areas at the time of designation were in private ownership.

Private mineral rights underlying wilderness areas cause significant management and legal problems. It is unclear as to the extent which the Wilderness Act and other statutes impose specific requirements on a mineral operator. Several lawsuits have challenged the United States Government concerning private minerals in eastern wildernesses. The suits arise from the mineral owners claiming that wilderness designation is a Federal "taking" effectively eliminating their property rights, thereby entitling them to compensation. Similarly, environmentalists have sued claiming that the Forest Service was inadequately protecting wilderness values from mineral development. This situation has placed the Forest Service in a very difficult position.

The end result of litigation has usually resulted in the mineral rights being acquired by the Government either through court settlement or congressional action. These acquistions have proven expensive and are particularly difficult to negotiate due to the difficulty of developing accurate mineral appraisal information. The value of the mineral rights is always a significant issue and

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is usually a highly subjective determination. To date, over $25 million has been spent on the acquisition of private mineral rights in wildernesses in the East. We want to avoid getting involved in a costly aquisition of mineral rights in Nordhouse Dunes.

There is no question that the Nordhouse Dunes area has physical attributes qualifying it as potential wilderness. The Forest Plan recommended the area as wilderness study. However, due to the major difficulties associated with designation as wilderness of an area that has high potential for overlying large privately held gas reserves, we do not recommend wilderness designation at this time.

In spite of the associated potential costs and difficulties, if Congress does decide to designate Nordhouse Dunes as wilderness, we believe it is essential that the bill be amended. Such an amendment would provide that privately owned mineral rights may be developed, that litigation over these rights is discouraged, and that wilderness designation would impose no more regulatory burdens on the Forest Service and mineral rights holders than are incurred to protect National Forest lands outside of wilderness. Suggested language for an amendment is attached to my testimony. The existing language in section 2(a) is not adequate to meet our concerns since it does not adequately address the legal standards by which the Federal Government would regulate the development of private mineral rights.

The Department of Agriculture would be strongly opposed to designation of Nordhouse Dunes as wilderness unless the bill includes language similar to that in our proposed amendment.

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Sylvania, Ottawa National Forest

The Sylvania area comprises about 18,325 acres in the Ottawa National Forest. It straddles the Mississippi River-Lake Superior divide and features an abundance of lakes with excellent water quality. The undisturbed character of the forests, the presence of several nesting pairs of bald eagles, and two known Michigan listed threatened plant species provide an opportunity for scientific study and education. Forest planning indicates this area has high wilderness characteristics and offers excellent semiprimitive recreation opportunities, including backpacking and canoeing.

Within the proposed Sylvania wilderness are three lakes (Big Bateau, Devils Head, and Crooked Lake) which have established motorboat use. Section 4(d) of the Wilderness Act (P.L. 88-577) allows for use of motorboats within wilderness when such use is established prior to wilderness designation. If designated as wilderness, we recommend the Sylvania area will be managed for continuing use of motorboats, insofar as such use will not negatively impact wilderness values.

We recommend this area be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sturgeon River Gorge, Ottawa National Forest

The Sturgeon River Gorge area has about 14,850 acres and is located in the northeast portion of the Ottawa National Forest. It contains the Sturgeon and Little Silver Rivers. The major attractions are the Sturgeon River, its

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rapids, falls, and the gorge itself. The Sturgeon River is listed in a nationwide rivers inventory for its potential for inclusion as a National Wild and Scenic River.

The potential for the occurance of metallic mineral resources is rated as low. A private utility company owns nearly 1,900 acres of the Sturgeon River Gorge, which represents an important part of this proposed wilderness. In view of our policy on minimizing land acquistion and the need to reduce the Federal budget deficit, we would anticipate any acquisition of this land would be by exchange. If an exchange proposal cannot be worked out with the utility company, the land would remain a private inholding within the wilderness with reasonable access provided by the Forest Service under existing law.

With this understanding, we support designation of the Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness.

Rock River Canyon, Hiawatha National Forest

The Rock River Canyon area in the Hiawatha National Forest contains about 4,640 acres. The canyon area of Rock River and Silver Creek is undeveloped, highly scenic, and contains fragile areas of unusual plant communities as well as easily eroded soils on steep slopes. The canyons' unique and fragile environment needs careful management to ensure its preservation, such as limiting access to the uplands surrounding the canyons.

Four private parties and the State of Michigan own the mineral rights underlying 93 percent of the area. Sand, gravel, and dimension sandstone occur

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within the area, but other sources are available closer to market areas. Federal ownership accounts for about 87 percent of the gross surface acreage. We support designation of this area as wilderness.

Big Island Lake, Hiawatha National Forest

The Forest Plan documents that the Big Island Lake area of about 5,840 acres is well suited for wilderness. Twenty-three small, clear lakes located among hardwood-covered hills are linked by portage trails and offer excellent recreational opportunities for canoeing. Other primitive recreation experiences include fishing, hiking, hunting, backpacking, and cross-country skiing.

Sand is the only known common variety of mineral in the area. Land ownership is 97 percent Federal. We recommend the area be designated as wilderness.

Mackinac, Hiawatha National Forest

The Mackinac area of about 12,230 acres is referred to as "Carp River" in the Forest Plan for the Hiawatha National Forest. The Carp River offers challenging canoeing. Fishing and hunting opportunities are attractive, with an abundant variety of fish and game in the area. Eighty-nine percent of the mineral rights in the area are in non-Federal ownership. However, the potential for metallic minerals or oil and gas resources is low. Sand and gravel deposits are not likely to be economically developable. Ninety-nine percent of the surface ownership is National Forest System land. Of the 160 acres of privately owned land, 120 acres are currently being negotiated for

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exchange. The final Forest Plan contains ample documentation to recommend this area as wilderness, and we recommend its desigation.

Horseshoe Bay, Hiawatha National Forest

The Horseshoe Bay area of about 3,790 acres is located on the north shore of Lake Huron. The area contains 7 miles of undeveloped Great Lakes shoreline on Horseshoe and St. Martins Bays. The shoreline supports waterfowl and other water-oriented wildlife. Bald eagles and osprey use the large white pine along the shoreline for nesting and feeding. Ninety-six percent of the surface area is National Forest System lands. The final Forest Plan recommends this area for wilderness study, and we support its addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Delirium, Hiawatha National Forest

The Delirium area of 11,870 acres is a flat to rolling area, primarily consisting of wetlands. The area contains good wildlife habitat, and two ponds of 6 and 80 acres add interest. The natural integrity is affected by the presence of a man-made flowage named Sylvester Pond, abandoned roadbeds, an elevated railroad grade, and some evidence of strip cutting of timber. The area offers few recreational attractions, but does provide a diverse wetland complex and associated wildlife habitats.

This area was not recommended for wilderness study in the Forest Plan, and we oppose its designation as wilderness. We recommend that the Delirium area be managed for semiprimitive nonmotorized uses as outlined in the Forest Plan.

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Les Cheneaux Island, Hiawatha National Forest

Les Cheneaux was identified in the Forest Plan as Government Island. This 214-acre island is the only publicly owned island in the Les Cheneaux group. This island contains no commercial forest land and has low mineral potential. Land ownership is entirely within the National Forest System. There are remains of a Coast Guard station along with other historic sites.

There is a lack of solitude on this island, as it is only 80 feet west of LaSalle Island which is in private ownership. In addition, a roaded island is a quarter mile to the northeast. Most recreation on the island has been day use activities, and few characteristics normally associated with wilderness are present. Primitive sanitary facilities have been provided to eliminate a public health problem.

For these reasons, this island was not recommended for wilderness study in the Forest Plan, and we oppose its designation as wilderness. The Island's close proximity to highly developed recreational residences and relatively protected water for boat use would make it difficult, if not impossible, to provide a quality wilderness experience. We recommend that Les Cheneaux Island be managed for semiprimitive nonmotorized uses as described in the Forest Plan.

Round Island, Hiawatha National Forest

The 377-acre Round Island was formally classified as a Scenic Area by the Forest Service in 1958, and the Round Island Lighthouse is on the National

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Register of Historic Places. Recreational interest in the island is primarily due to the fact that it is a picturesque, rugged complement to Mackinac Island. Although close to main boating routes and popular Mackinac Island, Round Island is perceived by the public as a secluded, quiet place.

No commercial potential exists on the island, and all mineral rights belong to the Federal Government. The final Forest Plan documents that there would be little public opposition to wilderness designation of the island, and we support the inclusion of Round Island in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

McCormick, Ottawa National Forest

The 16,850-acre McCormick area is comprised of the Cyrus H. McCormick Experimental Forest. The divide between Lake Superior and Lake Michigan watersheds crosses the area. Major attractions include 18 lakes; waterfalls on the Yellow Dog River (which is a National Wild and Scenic study river); and the overall rugged, isolated, unspoiled character of the mature forest in the area. Excellent opportunites for solitude make the area desirable for semi-primitive recreation experiences. Ninety-four percent of the mineral rights are in non-Federal ownership. Potential for the occurance of iron or other metallic mineral resources is rated as low. The final Forest Plan indicates strong support for designation of this area as wilderness, and we concur with that recommendation.

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Conclusion

H.R. 148 contains standard release language; therefore, all National Forest land in Michigan not designated as wilderness would be released for uses other than wilderness upon enactment of H.R. 148, and we believe this is an essential feature of this bill.

In summary, we strongly oppose wilderness designation for Nordhouse Dunes due to the potentially high cost of acquiring the private mineral rights in that area. However, if the Congress does decide to designate Nordhouse Dunes as wilderness, we strongly recommend the bill be amended to clarify the protection of private and State rights and avoid a Federal obligation to acquire those rights.

As stated for Sturgeon River Gorge, we expect that any private land aquisition within wilderness areas designated by this bill would be by land exchange, rather than purchase.

We also oppose wilderness designation for both the Delirum area and Les Cheneaux Island. We believe the evidence of man's activity in or around these areas make them unsuitable for wilderness designation. In our view, the public would be better served if these areas were managed for semiprimitive nonmotorized uses as outlined in the Forest plan.

This concludes my prepared statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions the Committee might have.

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Supplement to U.S. Department of Agriculture testimony concerning H.R. 148

Michigan Wilderness

March 19, 1987

To ensure that private and State rights are protected and that the Federal Government is not obligated to acquire those rights within the proposed Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness, we recommend that section 2(a) of H.R. 148 be amended by:

(1) deleting the words "subject to valid existing rights and reasonable access to exercise such rights" in lines 1 and 2 on page 2; and

(2) adding the following proviso:

"Provided, That the designation of the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness shall not impose requirements for environmental and natural resources protection for access to, and exploration and development of, nonfederal subsurface rights greater than or in addition to such requirements applicable to these lands as nonwilderness national forest system lands, nor shall the Secretary of Agriculture have a lesser or greater management obligation with respect to such nonfederal subsurface rights, including acquisition or exchange of such rights, as a result of this wilderness designation."

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TURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
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GORDON E. GUYER, Director

POSITION STATEMENT

Proposal to Establish Federal Wilderness
Areas in the State of Michigan
H.R. 148
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Dr. Gordon E. Guyer, Director
March 19, 1987

Proposals to establish additional Federal Wilderness Areas by Congressional action within the State of Michigan is a subject of continuing and keen public interest to the residents of our State. The citizens of Michigan have consistently demonstrated their commitment to the protection and enhancement of the quality of Michigan's environmental setting and unmatched diversity of opportunities for outdoor recreation that are so very vital to our tourism industry. Likewise, we strongly support the utilization of our natural resources for economic and industrial development purposes in a manner that is consistent with our paramount concern for the wise use and protection of these irreplaceable treasures.

Over eight million acres of land in the State of Michigan is held in public ownership and is administered and managed by several types of federal, state and local governmental bodies or agencies. The vast majority of this acreage is administered either by the federal government through the United States Forest Service or by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

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A harmonious and cooperative working relationship has continued to exist between federal and state agency representatives with respect to our responsibilities to the public as custodians of "their" land and natural resources. We mutually recognize the value served in managing public land for multiple-use purposes. Conversely, single-purpose uses may be determined to be the "highest and best use" for certain areas dependent upon the natural values and physical qualities inherent in such areas and places. The management of land as "wilderness" is one form of single-purpose management and may be appropriate under site specific qualities and conditions.

One particular area included within this concept is the focal point of this position statement. This area happens to be the only proposed potential wilderness area in Michigan's lower peninsula--it is commonly known as the Nordhouse Dunes Area and is a portion of the Huron - Manistee National Forest. We strongly urge the inclusion of this area in any legislation that may result in the establishment of additional Federal Wilderness areas in Michigan.

The Nordhouse Dunes Area is a focal point of prominence of ecological and environmental sensitivity along Michigan's Lake Michigan shoreline. It is appropriate that we digress for a moment, to place in proper perspective, the significance of this area to the natural values inherent within the Great Lakes Region of the United States.

The sand dune formations that exist in portions of Michigan's Great Lakes shoreline represent the largest assemblage of fresh water dunes in the world. They are truly a <u>unique</u> natural resource from a <u>global</u> perspective.

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These relatively young geomorphic features were created by natural forces that shall, most likely, not be repeated. It is through the forces of wind and water that relatively homogeneous deposits of sand were created over the past 10,000 years. Approximately 250 linear miles of Michigan's 3,200 miles of Great Lakes shoreline exhibit sand dune formations. The majority of these formations exist along the Lake Michigan shoreline in Michigan's lower peninsula.

Michigan's sand dunes have been a subject of interest to those knowledgeable in the physical and biological sciences for many years.. The basic principles of plant succession, as recognized by competent ecologists today, were established through investigative research projects in sand dune settings in the late 1800's. Many additional scientific investigations have been carried forth by scholars in Michigan sand dune formations since the enactment of the Michigan Sand Dune Protection and Management Act by the Michigan Legislature in 1976. These investigations included the Nordhouse Dunes Area and other prominent features along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

The Nordhouse Dunes Area is an integral and functional portion of a larger land and water environmental system known as the Big Point Sable-Hamlin Lake Nordhouse Dunes Environmental System. It is in essence a "regional landscape system." It is relevant to note that approximately 8,000 acres of land and inland water are in public surface ownership within this area. Approximately 4,500 acres of this total are administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as the Ludington State Park. The USFS does manage the additional (approximate) 3,500 acres which does share a common north boundary with the State Park.

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Public ownership within this area is extensively utilized for outdoor recreational activities on a year-round basis. Facilities for overnight camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking, and nature study have been developed and are administered by both public agencies (MDNR and USFS). It is a fact that this portion of Michigan is a "destination" recreation area to residents and visitors to our state. The positive impact of the tourism industry is a very important factor to the economic growth and enhancement of this part of Michigan.

The focal point of attraction in this area are the high relief "barrier dune formations" which grace the Lake Michigan shoreline. Outstanding vistas, viewpoints, and overlooks provide ample opportunities for spiritual refreshment to visitors. Located landward of these geomorphic features are sensitive wetlands and lowlands including marshes and bogs that are vital components to surface and groundwater regimes. Transitional systems or "ecotones" exist between ecosystems of differing character.

These systems exist, and perpetuate themselves, within the Nordhouse Dunes Area as referenced in H.R. 148.

The record of public and private ownership interests within the Nordhouse Dunes Area is well understood and recognized within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. There does exist a complexity of ownership interests that are further recognized as "valid existing rights."

There does also exist the responsiblity of public agencies to fulfill their obligations under applicable law when values held in public trust may be affected or adversely impacted.

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The Department of Natural Resources has been provided with the authority of exclusive jurisdiction over the manner in which hydrocarbons are explored for and produced by the Michigan Legislature. A comprehensive management and regulatory program exists within the Department toward meeting this statutory responsibility.

Clearly, the likelihood of hydrocarbon development within sensitive environmental areas--such as the Nordhouse Dunes--is a matter of paramount concern. Governor James J. Blanchard has similarly expressed his sincere interest and corcern about this matter on several occasions. The Michigan Natural Resources Commission also conveys serious apprehension about the compatibility of such development with the natural values inherent in this outstanding area.

The Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service have been interacting in a cooperative spirit toward the formulation of decisions that shall assure long-term protection for the unique and sensitive environmental elements that collectively comprise the Nordhouse Dunes Area. The Department is further committed to the utilization of all legal authority available in the accomplishment of this objective.

A dual agency (DNR and USFS) Interdisciplinary Review and Evaluation Team has diligently functioned during the past year toward the identification and the magnitude of impacts that hydrocarbon development would create in this portion of Michigan. Ample opportunities have been, and shall continue to be, provided for the public to participate in decision making processes.

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We are presently engaged in the administrative process of reviewing proposals brought forward by current mineral leaseholders in the Nordhouse Dunes Area for oil and gas development. Regulatory or police power authority existing at the state level and as defined by state law shall provide the basis for the decisions on hydrocarbon development in this area. Such decisions should not dictate one way or the other on the formal designation as wilderness as proposed in H.R. 148. Rather, the physical values inherent within this area should serve as the basis as to whether or not the area does indeed conform to the standards of wilderness as commonly accepted by the public.

It is the conclusion of the Department that this outstanding reservoir of natural resources is clearly deserving of such recognition.

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SIERRA CLUB
MACKINAC CHAPTER

The Statement of
Anne Marshall Woiwode
on HR 148, the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act
before the Agriculture Committee,
Subcommittee on Forests, Family Farms and Energy
March 18, 1987

Chairman Volkmer and members of the Subcommittee, my name is Anne Woiwode and I am the Conservation Representative for the Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club, working for our 8,000 Michigan Sierra Club members. I am pleased to have the opportunity today to testify in favor of the inclusion of 11 magnificent areas of Forest Service land in Michigan in the National Wilderness Preservation System, as put forward in the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act introduced by Congressman Dale Kildee.

I want to express the deep appreciation our members feel for Congressman Kildee's leadership on this issue over the past several years and in particular in the last session. Mr. Kildee's dedication to this issue reflects the fervent commitment of many Michigan citizens to see these special places afforded the particular protection available under wilderness designation.

While the history of the Forest Service wilderness debate in Michigan is similar to the debates in other states, in Michigan a unique situation has arisen over the course of the past few years. Representatives of the forest products industry and environmental organizations have been brought together in several settings in efforts to try to address and resolve conflicts over forest resources. One of the first outcomes was the support, in 1985, by the Governor's Michigan Forest Products Industry Development Council of the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act.

That support, with specific caveats for inclusion of release language and clarification of air quality issues, represents the first occasion in which any council of this sort has expressed its support for any wilderness bill before the United States Congress. As the designated environmental representative to the Forest Products Industry Development Council, I have felt fortunate to be a part of a bold effort to begin to address the differences between these interests in a constructive fashion.

In the planning process in Hiawatha National Forest a unique situation has also developed. Over a year ago, the staff of the Hiawatha decided to take advantage of the improved relationship among the interest groups to try to address issues in a cooperative rather than adversarial manner. This has not

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been an easy process, but it has been an instructive one. Through the efforts of the staff on that forest, the timber industry and environmental organizations, we have begun to negotiate out the differences of opinion among many interests over the Final Plan for the Hiawatha National Forest.

One of the issues addressed in our first session last week was the issue of wilderness designation. While agreements struck at the Forest level must pass through the appropriate channels before receiving final Forest Service approval, we are confident that minor modifications in the Delirium area and the Government Island (Les Cheneaux) area will allow the Forest Service to support the designation of these areas by Congress as wilderness. Many other issues must still be addressed in the process of these negotiations, but we are convinced that the effort will pay off in a unprecedented example of the ability of these divergent interests to come to a meeting of the minds.

The support for wilderness designation for these areas from such an unusual quarter as members of the timber industry is but one of the reasons that these areas deserve action in this committee. The most compelling reason is the absolute appropriateness of each of these eleven areas for wilderness designation. Michigan has been blessed with an amazing array of natural wonders, most of which revolve around water in one way or another. These 11 areas, in a remarkable way, have captured the essence of Michigan by defining a vast range of our state's features.

While it is difficult to capture the natural glory of areas such as these in just a few words, each one conjures up specific pictures. The tree covered dunes and lowland of Nordhouse Dunes. The craggy walls of Sturgeon River Gorge. The dense, dark, forbidding swampland in the Delirium area. The rocky, history laden shores of Les Cheneaux and Round Island. The pristene lakes and rivers of Sylvania, Big Island Lakes and the Mackinac area. The sandy beaches and marshy swales of Horseshoe Bay. The ice caves of Rock River Canyon. And, the mammoth white pines of the McCormick Tract. These snapshots merely echo the complex beauty and wonder of each of these areas. More complete descriptions of each area are attached.

For most of these areas, the support for preservation is virtually universal. While some people object to the wilderness designation on philosophical grounds, it is clear that the desired effect, permanent removal from timber production and prohibition of future roads and motorized access, is achieved through the wilderness designation, and no other way. Much of the language included in HR 148 is designed to allay the fears of special interests as to the impact of wilderness designation on their particular interest.

While we accept the language as it is, we are convinced that the language addressing the mineral rights under the Nordhouse Dunes has gone as far as is conscionable in addressing a rather narrow interest of a few individuals. The Wilderness Act of 1964 acknowledges the rights and protections of valid rights holders, and we have no quibble with a restatement of that intent within the language of HR 148. However, further accommodations would tend to build in guarantees not given to any in the highly speculative oil and gas industry. There cannot be any preemption of other environmental laws. In Michigan such laws will take precedence over drilling proposals regardless of any foderal designation or lack thereof.

Although the concerns of the Forest Service may affect their perception of

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the area, the final determination of the appropriateness of designating the Nordhouse Dunes area as a wilderness area rests in your hands and in the hands of your colleagues, not with an administrative agency. The Nordhouse Dunes area, an area of outstanding environmental sensitivity, of tremendous recreational values, and an area as isolated and undisturbed as any in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, would be a tremendous addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System. We urge you to act to ensure its inclusion in the NWPS.

Another area of concern is the Sturgeon River Gorge. In the Final Plan for the Ottawa National Forest, we believe an unfortunate interpretation of the rules or guidelines for location of a National Scenic Trail has led to the proposal to run the North Country Scenic Trail on the opposite side of a road from the border of the Sturgeon River Gorge. While the intention of the regulation may have been to avoid overuse in wilderness areas in general by encouraging trails to be run through other parts of the forest, the implementation in this case will lead to a somewhat ludicrous situation of a National Scenic Trail being run through intensive timber management areas, including some recently clear cut areas, while on the other side of the road will be a magnificent area, complete with trails along the edge of a beautiful gorge. We believe it might be helpful to have clarification by the Congress to allow the North Country Trail to be routed along the eastern escarpment of the Sturgeon River Gorge, as well as through the Rock River Canyon area in the Hiawatha National Forest.

The vast majority of the lands recommended for designation in this bill are owned by the Forest Service already, however we are concerned that the administration has sought to tie its own hands in the acquisition of inholdings. The limitation of acquisition to only those lands which could be traded for is an unnecessary restriction on the ability of the Forest Service to complete the acquisitions in these areas. In particular, in the Sturgeon River Gorge, a priority should be put on bringing under Forest Service ownership, through purchase or otherwise, the inholdings within the gorge itself. In the other areas, the primarily small parcels which make up the inholdings should be acquired however feasible to enhance the ability of the Forest Service to manage these areas.

I also wish to simply restate that the Delirium and Les Cheneaux areas should be designated. In our negotiations with the Hiawatha staff it was concluded that a minor border adjustment, a "cherry-stem", into the dam at Sylvester Pond in Delirium would be an appropriate way to address concerns about maintenance of the pond. Likewise, we agree that the maintenance of existing sanitary facilities in the Les Cheneaux area would be an acceptable way to address sanitation concerns in that area.

In summary, we are delighted that the consideration of the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act is moving ahead, and we look forward to your passage of this outstanding piece of legislation. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

(Attachment follows:)

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DESCRIPTIONS OF THE ELEVEN PROPOSED FOREST SERVICE WILDERNESS AREAS IN MICHIGAN

prepared by the

SIERRA CLUB

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HORSEHOUSE ROUND PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA

Scenic values: Towering sand dunes overlook Lake Michigan among jackpine and birch. The inland forest is a mix of hardwoods and pine. The white sand beach offers the longest, undisturbed stretch of Lake Michigan shoreline on the lower peninsula.

Recreational values: As the only proposed wilderness area in the lower peninsula, Horsehouse offers an array of recreational opportunities to both the casual visitor and the hardcore adventurer. Hiking trails run the length of the area, and provide a cross section of dunal succession for nature study and bird watching. No where else in the lower peninsula can one find such beautiful, undeveloped beaches, providing for enjoyment of the lakeshore without interruption by human manufactured noises, vehicles or litter. Other recreational pursuits include hunting, camping and orienteering, all within easy reach of Michigan's metropolitan centers.

Natural diversity: It would be hard to even capsulize here the reams of material written about the Horsehouse Dunes area. The most recent study completed by Vital Resources Inc., a private consultant under contract to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, surmises that "preservation of the Horsehouse Dunes area, in combination with the northern unit of Ludington State Park would provide for the largest undeveloped public dune area in Michigan. The size of the undisturbed area, the extent of public ownership, and the length of the undeveloped, natural shoreline, render this area unique and worthy of preservation." The area supports at least a half dozen threatened or special concern plant species, and is stopping point for migratory birds, including the Peregrin falcon and the Bald Eagle, listed federally as endangered or threatened respectively. More common species are also abundant, providing an excellent outdoor classroom for casual hikers and post graduate researchers alike.

Watershed: The groundwater and streams of Horsehouse flow directly into Lake Michigan or into Hamlin Lake, a popular recreational and tourist area.

Special Qualities of the Area: Aside from being the only proposed wilderness area in the lower peninsula of Michigan, Horsehouse Dunes provides for outstanding recreational and scientific values unavailable anywhere else, not only in Michigan, but in the nation as a whole. Grave concern exists over the potential for oil and gas development in the area.

ROUND ISLAND PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA

Scenic values: Round Island is the "little island with the lighthouse" in the straits of Mackinac, and is a much photographed stunning scenic focal point. Long, sweeping sand beaches, protected coves, limestone outcroppings add to the island's attractiveness. From the island, there are uninterrupted views off into the sunrise on the eastern shore, and views of the straits elsewhere.

Recreational values: Because of its prominence in the straits, and its proximity to popular resort areas, Round Island attracts recreational boaters who picnic on the island, walk the beaches, fish in its quiet waters, and explore the lighthouse. Opportunities for hunting are limited by the size and location of the island.

Natural Diversity: At least two state listed threatened plants are found on Round Island, as well as others endemic to the special limestone formation found on the island. A variety of wildlife, including deer, raccoon, squirrel, fox, songbirds and waterfowl inhabit the island. Fish found around the island include trout, pike, salmon, and other lake species.

Unique features: Archeological interest in the island exists because of remnants of indian settlements and pre-colonial white settlements. These artifacts are protected on the island, and not publicized for fear of souvenir seekers. The historical role of the island in the settlement of our state gives it an unusual place among the proposed wilderness areas.

Special qualities of the area: Round Island is probably the most easily recognized proposed wilderness area among those in the hills because it is seen by anyone who travels across the Mackinac Bridge. While it is deficient in some characteristics that would make it a more compelling wilderness area, it provides a sense of Michigan's undeveloped natural heritage to millions of travelers each year as they gaze at its unbroken canopy and shoreline.

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LES CHENEAUX/GOVERNMENT ISLAND PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA

Scenic values: As the only undeveloped island left in the Les Cheneaux Island Chain, Government Island retains the look and feel of those islands as they greeted the Voyageurs in ancient times. The rocky shoreline is interspersed with sandy beaches and the island forest is a dense mix of balsam fir, white cedar and aspen.

Recreational values: The island is used by summer boaters for picnicking, nature study, sun bathing, camping and hiking. Some hunting takes place on the island, and the adjacent waters are popular for fishing.

Natural Diversity: The island is the only remaining one of 35 in the chain largely in a natural state. Government Island supports a small population of deer and other mammals. Diving ducks, gulls and other waterfowl are common. Fish in the surrounding waters include pike, bass, perch and other species. The island offers the visitor an opportunity to study and explore a natural ecotype.

Unique features: As an island in the pathway of the first European explorers of the Great Lakes, Government Island provides a remnant of the experience of those Voyageurs not found elsewhere.

Special qualities of the area: The relative ease of access, and yet isolation of the island provides an ideal opportunity to enjoy nature in an unmanipulated setting. Many boating access sites this an ideal site for even the least adventuresome to get a feel for what Michigan was like before modern development changed the landscape. In the midst of a growing tourist area, this beautiful piece of our natural heritage stands as a reminder of human impacts in our state.

HARRISVILLE BAY PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA

Scenic values: A golden crescent of sand reaches out into Lake Huron, backed by a dunes, deep green cedar forest. The clear waters of the bay add the finishing touch to this picture.

Recreational values: The shoreline zone is the primary focus for recreational activities. From a long walk on an isolated beach to overnight hikes and camping to fishing and photography, the bay is an accessible and pleasant place to be. A nature trail from the nearby Foley Creek campground brings visitors through the cedar forest, so even the most casual explorer can enjoy the area.

Natural Diversity: The wet, swampy nature of much of the area off the beach provides for rich and diverse array of plant and animal life. Among the wildlife one might encounter are Bald Eagles and osprey, who nest in the large, scattered white pine along the edge of the beach, waterfowl and water oriented wildlife, and, in the winter, deer can be found seeking shelter in the dense cedar. The plant life is abundant in the swales behind the low dunes. Extensive patches of Pitcher plants and other carnivores are intriguing, and numerous wildflowers catch your eye easily.

Special qualities of the area: During the tour of the areas conducted following the hearing in Marquette last summer as Congressman Kildee's wilderness bill, a staff member of the House Committee on Public Lands remarked that this area would be a unique addition to the wilderness system because there is nothing like it included to date. Despite its proximity to heavily trafficked areas, Harrisville Bay makes the visitor feel well removed from civilization. The casual visitor or dedicated nature buff will be equally enthralled by its beauty.

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BIG ISLAND LAKES PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA

Scenic value: Picture 23 lakes rimmed with birch and pine-filled hillsides and you immediately appreciate the appeal of the Big Island Lakes area. On close inspection the area reveals lovely tamarack bogs filled with Pitcher plants and sundew (carnivorous plants) and quiet ponds bursting with water-lilies.

Recreational value: Ironically, although the Forest Service did not recommend Big Island Lakes for wilderness in their RARE II study, the Draft Forest Management Plan in 1985 says that "Big Island Lakes offers one of the best opportunities for wilderness on the Hiawatha National Forest and probably the greatest appeal for recreational wilderness." Recreation would concentrate on canoeing the lakes, with relatively easy portages available from lake to lake, and camping in the serenity of the area.

Natural diversity: Aspen, paper birch, northern hardwoods, pine and swamp conifer grow in the area, providing a colorful display on the hillsides in the fall. Diverse flora, fauna and fish are present in a variety of ecosystems. Loons, beavers, ducks, and Great Blue Herons are all present, as well as the carnivorous plants and water-lilies mentioned above.

Watershed: The water quality of the area is a great concern in so far as assuring a prime recreational experience. Management as an undisturbed area will enhance the water quality, and assure protection of the recreational attraction.

Special qualities of the area: Big Island Lakes provides a tremendous recreational opportunity that contrasts with other proposed wilderness areas in Michigan. While the Carp River/Mackinac area provides a river canoeing experience, and Sylvania provides canoeing in cool, clear deep lakes, Big Island Lakes provides lake canoeing on warm water, shallow lakes. The isolated, unmotorized lakes provide a particular draw to the primitive recreationalist.

ROCK RIVER CANYON PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA

Scenic values: From the boundary road Rock River Canyon looks like any other northern hardwood forest, not revealing the scenic wonders within. Within the area the adventurer can find towering virgin maple stands, steep, almost vertical canyon walls descending to silver ribbons of streams in the heart of the canyons. Waterfalls and smallow caves are found within, and in the winter, the spectacular ice caves which form on the escarpment.

Recreational values: Fishing is popular in Gimpels Lake and Rock River and Silver Creek. In winter, skiers and snowshoers visit the ice caves, which also invite photographers. Backpacking, camping, hunting and nature study are also appropriate for the area.

Natural Diversity: The unique topography of the two canyons (highly unusual in this part of Michigan) offer fine opportunities to study the geology of Northern Michigan. Northern Michigan University has identified an abundance of rare plant communities in the area. Distinct ecosystems are easily visible and change abruptly from the table Lands to the steep canyon walls. The area of mature maples is one finest examples in the state of a climax maple forest. The area is described as a "fragile and unique ecological area" in parts by the Forest Service. Wildlife are those typical of a northern hardwood forest.

Watershed protection: Much of the upstream watershed of the Rock River and Silver Creek are protected by the undisturbed nature of the upland areas in the wilderness proposal. Several miles downstream, Rock River empties into Lake Superior. High water quality is Silver Creek and Rock River also help directly protect Lake Superior.

Special qualities of the area: Rock River Canyon is a unique area, providing an unusual environment available to the day hiker, areas country skier, or backpacker. Some concern exists about protecting the fragile nature of the area from too many visitors. Wilderness supporters have no problem with controlled access to the area, and would prefer that to the current uncontrolled, sometimes motorized access to the area, that threatens to open up untold damage. Also, particular concern exists because a proposed timber sale in the area was listed in the Draft Forest Management Plan, making it clear that the Forest Service will not leave the area unmanipulated on their own.

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MCCORMICK TRACT PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA

Scenic values: McCormick is one of the least disturbed areas in Michigan and is also among the most beautiful. Rocky outcroppings tower over valleys of lakes, streams and wetlands. The lakes are nestled in a magnificent forest of ancient white pine, hemlock, yellow birch and maple. The waterfalls of the Yellow Dog River cascade over black granite boulders in the heart of the forest. McCormick is unsurpassed in Michigan for wild, rugged beauty.

Recreational values: Current recreational use is limited to day use only. Even so, it is a very popular winter cross-country ski destination, and its water quality makes it one of the finest "secret" trout fishing areas in the Upper Peninsula. Day hiking is also an enjoyed activity. Pending wilderness designation, current plans for the area include opening the area for overnight (camping) use, which will greatly increase recreational opportunities in this area.

Natural diversity: The undisturbed quality of the tract provides exceptional habitat for numerous species that prefer mature forest habitat. The recent reintroduction of moose in the Upper Peninsula occurred on the borders of the area, which provides ideal habitat for this species. Black bear, bobcat, otters, Loons, Bald Eagle, pileated woodpeckers, and possibly stray wolves are found in McCormick today or have been sighted there in the past.

The primary use of the tract since acquisition in 1968 has been for scientific research, particularly focussing on wilderness values. This is a direct reflection of the McCormick family wishes when the area was donated to the Federal government. Research is carried out by the Forest Service and numerous universities. McCormick is probably the best and largest living example of the original Michigan forest. Climax white pine and maple forests dominate the area with an outstanding range of understory vegetation. Disturbance in the area is minimal, and thus the natural ecosystem is ideally suited for study.

Watershed: The headwaters of the Yellow Dog River are among the most pristine in the state, as evidenced by the thriving trout populations. Water quality is also excellent in the lakes. The wetland areas are highly productive and provide excellent browse for moose and other wildlife.

Special qualities of the area: Perhaps most notable about McCormick, aside from its beauty and scientific value, is that the gift of the land to the Forest Service specified the intention that the area be managed as wild lands. Designation as wilderness will merely cement the intentions of the federal government in this commitment.

STURGEON RIVER GORGE PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA

Scenic values: The deep, aspen and birch filled valley, sheer sandstone cliffs and spectacular waterfall provide outstanding scenic vistas unique in the midwest.

Recreational values: Camping, hiking, sight-seeing, photography, trout fishing and canoeing are all popular activities in the gorge. The North Country National Scenic Trail will be routed along the scenic eastern gorge escarpment offering inspiring panoramas for the casual hiker or long-distance trekker. The most popular destination is Sturgeon Falls at the heart of the gorge where large boulders provide excellent viewing and picnicking sites.

Natural diversity: Numerous colleges and universities carry out research in the Sturgeon River Gorge area, including research on endangered species habitat. A 50 acre mature hemlock site has been identified for its natural research value. Remnant old-growth areas can be found in the gorge, although much of the forest is second growth. This reported forest is a beautiful and diverse ecosystem of mixed hardwoods, spruce, hemlock, red and white pine interspersed with classic wetland vegetation in the swales and low areas in the western part of the area. Habitat for deer, black bear, bobcat, and other wildlife is found in the area. The river supports trout.

Special qualities of the area: While fairly easy to get to, the edge of the gorge and the site near the falls provides a tremendous sense of solitude and isolation, allowing for the contemplation so often associated with the wilderness experience.

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DELIRIUM PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA

Scenic values: Delirium, a wetland area is relatively flat terrain, is most scenic from the sky, where it stands out like a green gem in sharp contrast to the surrounding signs of civilization.

Recreational values: Delirium presents a serious challenge to the explorer, and is not for the casual walker. The wetland and dense vegetation makes foot travel difficult, although during winter months snowshoeing is possible. For those willing to accept the challenge, Delirium is a wild wonder filled with wildlife and unique plants. During migration common, it is a birder's delight, as thousands of waterfowl come through the area. The wildlife make Delirium a destination for serious hunters and trappers.

Natural diversity: Delirium is one of the largest undisturbed wetland complexes in Michigan, and thus protects an expansive habitat for waterfowl, including loons, Great Blue Herons, and migratory habitat for sandhill cranes. Mammals which prefer a wetland environment, beaver, muskrat, and otter, as well as common northwoods species such as deer, bear and rabbit, are found is the area. Bobcats are known th live in Delirium as well.

As one of the most isolated areas in the wilderness proposal, Delirium presents a special opportunity for the protection and study of natural gene pools and natural ecosystems. The Forest Service itself states that "as natural ecological processes become fully restored, the Delirium area may become a fully authentic wetland type in which the gene pools of all flora and fauna would be maintained." Delirium is also recognized to be a distinct wetland system from the Sunny Wilderness area, and would be a new ecotype in the wilderness system.

Delirium has barely been touched by the scientific community because of its inhospitable environment. It is to be expected that the plant life would be extremely rich and various.

Watershed: Wetland areas act as natural recharge zones for underground aquifers. The size and undisturbed nature of Delirium zones that it plays a significant role in maintaining the quality and quantity of adjacent aquifers.

Special qualities of the area: While every individual has a different perception of wilderness, Delirium has one of the most commonly accepted characteristics: absolute remoteness from human impact. It has been left alone because of its inhospitable nature, and thus provides an extraordinary opportunity to set aside an area where nature is is totally in charge.

CARP RIVER/MACKINAC PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA

Scenic values: The outstanding feature of this area is the Carp River itself, which meanders for miles within the heart of the area on its way to Lake Huron. The river affords a passage through a dense hardwood forest of maple, birch and aspen.

Recreational values: Carp River is ideal for one seeking solitude and isolation. Canoeing the Carp River is the primary access to and passage through the area. In spite of its name, the River supports a variety of fish attractive to anglers, including brook, brown and rainbow trout. Foot travel and nature study are available in the northern part of the area, with hunters using the area in season.

Natural diversity: The ecology of the area ranges from Northern hardwoods in the north to "inaccessible and inhospitable wetlands" in the south. In an unmanipulated setting the area is reverting to its pre-modern diversity. Osprey and eagles are known to feed in the area, and sandhill cranes, Great Blue Herons and pileated woodpeckers are active to the area. Also, wildlife includes beavers, whitetail deer, black bear, pine marten, mink, muskrat, snowshoe hare, and raccoons. Over time, the Forest Service states, the area will see an increase in water quality as a result of protected status. The watershed drains into Lake Huron and the area also provides for aquifer recharge through its extensive wetlands.

Special qualities of the area: The Carp River/Mackinac area will be one of the more popular areas for recreational activities, allowing canoeists to biscet a a restored natural area, enjoying wildlife and botanical diversity, as well as fishing. Its proximity to the Mackinac Bridge puts it within easy reach of many outdoor enthusiasts in the lower peninsula.

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SYLVANIA TRACT PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA

Scenic values: Towering virgin white pine and hemlock forest surround the undeveloped shoreline of 38, clear, cool lakes. White sand beaches and rock outcroppings provide other visual interest. Enjoyment of loons paddling, fishing, or calling near your non-motorized boats tops off the visual experience.

Recreational values: This may be the most popular canoe area in the midwest outside of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The range of opportunity is from day long paddling down Clark Lake, to week long excursion onto the numerous lakes accessible only by foot paddle. Isolated primitive campgrounds provide solitude, and fishing is popular as are hiking and backpacking. Winter use centers on network of cross-country ski trails. The res attracts visitors from other states well as the lower peninsula. Sylvania is currently managed as a recreation

Natural diversity: One of the finest protected loon habitats in the midwest (loons are now considered a threatened species). Also an important feeding area for Bald Eagle, osprey, and other raptors. Mammals include black bear, deer, beaver, otter, fox, mink, etc. Fish include largemouth and smallmouth bass, lake trout, pike and walleye. The area is used extensively as an outdoor laboratory by several midwestern colleges and universities. Sylvania supports at least 26 distinct ecosystems, and is used frequently for the study of ecology, botany, wildlife biology and other disciplines.

Watershed: Sylvania is perched on top of the subcontinental divide between the Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Mississippi river watersheds. The lakes have been described as being virtually identical to rain water in composition.

Special qualities of the Sylvania is already a popular recreational area, whose appeal will only been enhanced by wilderness designation.

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THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL J. KELLETT, MICHIGAN REPRESENTATIVE, THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS, FAMILY FARMS, AND ENERGY ON H.R. 148, THE MICHIGAN WILDERNESS HERITAGE ACT, MARCH 18, 1987

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, I am Michael Kellett, Michigan Representative for The Wilderness Society. I am here on behalf of the Society's 160,000 members to strongly support H.R. 148, the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act. The Society commends Congressman Kildee for his outstanding leadership on this issue. We are also pleased that eleven other Congressmen from Michigan chose to co-sponsor this important bill.

Congressman Kildee's bill would designate eleven new wilderness areas, totalling approximately 92,000 acres, in the Hiawatha, Huron-Manistee, and Ottawa national forests. Ten of the areas are in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and one is in the Lower Peninsula. I have personally been fortunate enough to have visited all eleven areas in H.R. 148, and can attest to the fact that these areas are truly a priceless heritage for the people of Michigan and the Nation.

Michigan has over 2.7 million acres of national forest land, more than any other state east of the Mississippi. However, among the thirty-three states with over 300,000 acres of national forest land, Michigan remains the only state without a single acre of national forest wilderness. If H.R. 148 becomes law, the eleven areas protected would represent slightly more than three percent of Michigan's national forest land, and less than one-quarter of one percent of Michigan's total land base.

The designation of these eleven areas as wilderness would have no negative economic, environmental, or social impacts. On the contrary, wilderness designation would have significant positive impacts. Tourism would increase—the Forest Service has estimated that if all eleven proposed areas were protected as wilderness, non-motorized recreation use would increase from 10,000 to 109,000 visitor days per year. In addition, these areas would serve as

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reservoirs of clean air and water, beauty and solitude, and essential habitat for numerous species of plants and animals. The proposed wilderness areas have been under agency study as well as public scrutiny for over ten years, beginning with the Forest Service's RARE studies of the late 1970's. Over the last decade a broad base of bi-partisan support for protecting all eleven of these areas as wilderness has developed. This legislation is endorsed by Governor James Blanchard, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, virtually all conservation groups, other groups such as the United Auto Workers, most major newspapers, and the Michigan Forest Product Industry Development Council.

There are three areas included in H.R. 148 which the Forest Service has not supported for wilderness designation: Nordhouse Dunes, Delirium, and Government Island. In the case of Nordhouse Dunes, Forest Service opposition was responsible, in large part, for the failure to pass a wilderness bill in the final days of the 99th Congress. I will focus on each of these three areas, and on the concerns which prompted the Forest Service's lack of support.

The Nordhouse Dunes area, comprising 3,450 acres, is the only area considered for wilderness designation in the entire Lower Peninsula of Michigan. It is a rare, undisturbed remnant of the Great Lakes coast as it once was. Although relatively small, the area contains unspoiled Lake Michigan shoreline, unique dune formations, vigorous pine and hardwood forests, undisturbed wetlands, an inland lake, and a wide variety of ecosystems. The area protects several known rare and threatened plant species, and potential nesting habitat for the rare piping plover. Nordhouse Dunes offers outstanding scenery, challenging recreational opportunities, and the hallmarks of wilderness—solitude, naturalness, and beauty, unassailed by the developments of urban society. The recreational importance of Nordhouse Dunes cannot be overstated—the area is within 150 miles of over 7 million people, and within 400 miles of 50 million people.

There are 1,930 acres of subsurface mineral rights within the Nordhouse Dunes area which have been retained in private ownership. In March 1986, the Miller Brothers Oil Corporation, which has leased some of the mineral rights, proposed to the State of Michigan that it be allowed to develop oil and gas deposits under Nordhouse Dunes. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (Michigan DNR), which issues drilling permits, has reviewed the proposal. As

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part of its review, the Michigan DNR commissioned a study of the area by Vital Resources, Inc., and prepared its own draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) on the proposed hydrocarbon development. The Michigan DNR's final environmental impact statement (FEIS), and recommendations on the drilling proposal are expected imminently.

The DEIS states that "The sand dune formations that exist in portions of Michigan's Great Lakes shoreline are unique natural resources from a global perspective." Vital Resources, Inc.'s detailed study concluded that the Nordhouse Dunes area, in conjunction with the adjacent Ludington State Park, is the largest remaining area of unspoiled, publicly-owned Great Lakes dunes. The entire Nordhouse Dunes roadless area is an integral part of this environmental system. Both the DEIS and the Vital Resources report show that hydrocarbon development could significantly, and perhaps irreparably harm the delicate ecosystems of Nordhouse Dunes.

Development could also have major negative impacts on the quality of recreational experience in and around the Nordhouse Dunes area, and could significantly affect the quality of life for residents of nearby communities. The DEIS estimates that the cumulative negative impacts of noise, odor, and increased traffic resulting from hydrocarbon development would significantly affect thousands of people each year.

The people of Michigan are overwhelmingly opposed to any kind of development in Nordhouse Dunes. At a recent hearing on the State of Michigan's DEIS, only the representatives of the subsurface minerals owner and the lessees spoke in favor of development. Comments submitted to the Forest Service during the RARE II wilderness review process, and during the recently completed forest planning process, almost unanimously supported wilderness designation for Nordhouse Dunes, and opposed development of any kind. There can be no doubt that this is a case where the people of Michigan have spoken out loudly and clearly in support of wilderness and against development.

The Forest Service, in testimony on the Michigan Wilderness Act of 1985 (S. 1767), opposed wilderness designation for Nordhouse Dunes. The assumption was that the prospect of hydrocarbon development within the wilderness boundaries would make it necessary to purchase the subsurface mineral rights. This concern may be ill-founded. The major negative environmental impacts of oil

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and gas development, as well as the public's unqualified opposition to such development, clearly justify a denial by the Michigan DNR of a permit to drill in Nordhouse Dunes. Should this be the case, it would be irrelevant whether or not the area was a designated federal wilderness—drilling would be prohibited under Michigan state law. Under these circumstances, it is highly unlikely that the Forest Service would need to purchase the private subsurface, since it would not be developable.

The Nordhouse Dunes area represents a priceless remnant of the primeval Lake Michigan shoreline. On the other hand, it represents perhaps a day's supply of oil for Michigan. It is clear that the social good of protecting Nordhouse Dunes for this and future generations far outweighs the meager benefits of a few barrels of oil. We are pleased that Congressman Kildee has recognized this with his inclusion of this area in H.R. 148.

The Delirium area is a biologically diverse wetland complex. This 11,870-acre area provides habitat for numerous species, including bobcat, beaver, otter, deer, black bear, ducks, loons, great blue herons, and sandhill cranes. The Forest Service has stated that, if protected from development, the area "may become a fully authentic wetland ecotype in which the gene pools of all flora and fauna would be maintained." Delirium's rich biological values clearly make it eminently suited for wilderness designation.

The Forest Service has recommended this area for non-wilderness in the Hiawatha National Forest Final Plan. In discussions with the Forest Service and others, we have ascertained that there is virtually no public opposition to designation of the area. The effects of designation on local economies and regional tourism would be positive. The Forest Service's only significant concern is the continued maintenance of an existing impoundment, Sylvester Pond, within the Delirium area. The impoundment provides nesting habitat for the common loon, great blue heron, and sandhill crane, among other wildlife species. It is also very natural appearing—I visited the area recently, and would have had a difficult time identifying the low, earthen dam which impounds Sylvester Pond as a manmade structure if I had not known to look for it. The Wilderness Society has no problem with maintaining Sylvester Pond. The wildlife habitat it provides is becoming increasingly valuable as other areas are developed, and is compatible with the sights and experiences of wilderness.

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The Forest Service's concern is that wilderness designation would not allow maintenance of the Sylvester Pond Dam. The 1985 House Subcommittee report notes that maintenance of the dam, as an existing structure, is consistent with sections 4(c), and 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act, and that no special provisions need to be made in the bill to allow for this. Nevertheless, the Forest Service feels that it would not be able to adequately maintain the dam without "cherry-stemming" at least the road and dam out of the wilderness boundaries. We do not feel this is necessary, but would reluctantly accept such a boundary revision if the Subcommittee felt it was appropriate. The important thing is that this outstanding biological reserve be permanently protected with wilderness designation.

The 214-acre Government Island area is the sole remaining undeveloped island in the thirty-two island Les Cheneaux Islands chain, east of the Straits of Mackinac. Accessable only by boat, this area is covered with hardwood forests, and offers ample undisturbed Lake Huron shoreline. The island provides excellent wildlife habitat, and offers significant recreation and nature study opportunities.

The Forest Service recommended Government Island for non-wilderness in the Hiawatha Final Plan. Based on discussions with the Forest Service, the only serious concern that exists is the ability to maintain sanitary facilities on the island. Because of heavy public use, the absence of such facilities threatens public health and the environmental quality of the island.

We are willing to accept the maintenance of existing sanitary facilities on Government Island, if they are needed to protect public health and environmental quality. We feel the Wilderness Act allows maintenance of such facilities where appropriate. However, we would urge the Forest Service to look for ways to manage the island, such as limiting visitor use, which would allow for the removal of the facilities in the future.

In addition to these three major areas of concern, there has been some question regarding the boundary of the Sturgeon River Gorge area in the Ottawa National Forest. Senator Levin's bill introduced last session, included some areas and excluded others, which would be part of the wilderness area under Congressman Kildee's bill. We wish to make it clear that we strongly endorse the boundaries of Sturgeon River Gorge included in H.R. 148. I have personally

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visited all the areas in question, and can attest to the need for their inclusion in the bill. Of special concern is the so-called "eastern escarpment" area, which is a 700-acre strip of land bordered by the gorge on the west, and Forest Road 191 on the east. This area is needed to protect the inner gorge from the sights and sounds of motorized recreation, and represents an easily-reached part of the wilderness for many users.

We strongly agree with Congressman Kildee that all of these areas are superb examples of the outstanding biological diversity, scenic values and recreational opportunities of Michigan's North Woods. As I have explained, the Wilderness Society believes that the perceived conflicts existing with regard to Nordhouse Dunes, Delirium, and Government Island have been, or could be addressed within the framework of the Wilderness Act and H.R. 148. Designation of these special areas as wilderness will ensure that they are protected for this and future generations.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of H.R. 148.

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STATEMENT OF: Sara Miles Iverson,

REPRESENTING: The Les Cheneaux Island Association

BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE (OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE) ON:

National Parks and Public Lands

ON: HR-148, The Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act

March 18, 1987

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Sara Miles Iverson. I am speaking on behalf of the Les Cheneaux Island Association, which represents 300 families of the Les Cheneaux area. The Les Cheneaux Islands are a chain of 35 islands located in bays along northern Lake Huron in eastern Mackinac County, where nearby communities include the towns of Cedarville and Hessel. I appreciate the chance to speak to the subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands on the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act. I would like to thank Representative Dale Kildee and cosponsors for supporting this bill.

HR-148 will designate many tracts of land in northern Michigan as protected wilderness areas. This legislation will preserve these areas of magnificent forest and wilderness for generations to come and will prohibit commercial and/or private development as well as the harvesting of timber. I understand that the U.S. Forest Service is not supporting the inclusion of two tracts of land currently in this bill and that the Senate bill also excludes these two areas. These are, namely, Government Island, a 214-acre island in the Les Cheneaux chain, and Delirium, a 12,000-acre wetland tract nearby in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Congressman Kildee is well justified to include these two areas in the Wilderness Act and I urge you today to give serious consideration to the inclusion of these in bill HR-148.

Dating back to my great grandparents, my family has had the privilege

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of enjoying the Les Cheneaux Islands - or the Voyagers' Islands. In the recent past I have had the opportunity to camp, hike, sail and cross-country ski in many areas of the United States and have yet to find a place with as much charm, fresh water, good winds, and wooded areas as that of the Les Cheneaux Islands and other parts of the Upper Peninsula. I believe this attitude is felt by all who have access to these areas.

Unfortunately, all but one of the 35 islands in the Les Cheneaux chain are privately owned. Government Island is the single publicly-held island and thus remains natural and undeveloped and free from cabins, resorts and cottages. Its large protected bay is a haven to cruising sailboats and, currently, primitive campgrounds are avaliable to campers with permits. Access to the island is possible only by boat, or across ice during winter. The island is secluded and unspoiled, with natural shorelines and wonderful opportunity to experience nature for both tourists and year-round residents of the mainland, who otherwise have little opportunity to access these islands. Even for the islanders themselves, it provides the only chance to see the "Voyager's Wilderness" almost as it once was. Boaters and campers have brought needed business to the towns of Cedarville and Hessel.

It is my understanding that the U.S. Forest Service has questioned the ability of Government Island to serve as a "wilderness experience" due to "sights and sounds" of human activity from passing boats and other islands. From first-hand experience, I know these senses to be minimal and one easily feels secluded there. Traffic is certainly less than that which confronts Round Island, an island given wilderness designation by the Forest Service. Government Island is dense with forest growth including lowland conifers, northern hardwoods, and a wide array of ferns and wild flowers. It is home and refuge to birds such as the magnificent pileated woodpecker and many species of song birds and waterfowl, as well as white-tailed deer, mink, fox and other small mammals. Fish species are plentiful in the

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adjacent waters. Habitat itself is little affected by normal sights and sounds. In this day and age we are faced with all types of "wilderness experiences" available to us, many of which include some "sights and sounds" of other human activity. However, as long as the habitat is there, we can accept these as part of the world we live in. The nature experience is still irreplacable.

The Forest Service, in whose hands these tracts of land will remain if not included in this bill, has indicated that they will be maintained as in the past; for at least the next few years. I question, however, why the Forest Service would want this land and be willing to spend money on it, if it is only to remain protected and undeveloped. As recently as 25 years ago Government Island was lumbered by the Forest Service and only now are stands of the great white pine and other trees coming back.

At one time the Les Cheneaux Islands were inhabited by nesting bald eagles, which have long since departed due to the extensive cutting that has taken place. As recently as last summer, sightings have occurred of bald eagles in the Upper Peninsula and in fact flying over the Les Cheneaux waters. It is quite possible that if we finally allowed forests, such as that of Government Island, to reach old growth stage with trees tall enough, we could even see the return of a nesting pair.

We also include the valuable tract of wetland, the Delirium area, in our request for wilderness status. This area is in close proximity to the Les Cheneaux, Cedarville and Hessel and is recognized by our community as important wildlife habitat and as a unique wilderness area worth visiting. There is presently no active community to defend this land and it is thus entirely at the mercy of a government agency.

In conclusion, our Association would like to secure and continue to share these few remnants of the wilderness. We cannot support the lack of a true long-term committment to preserving this land by the Forest Service,

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nor can we accept the ever-present threat of its harvesting or turning over of the land to private developers such as has occurred recently with Lime Island in the St. Marys River by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. We ask you again to include these lands in the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act. We thank you for your time and your consideration.

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STATEMENT OF JOHN P. FORESTER REPRESENTING
MICHIGAN LAKE AND STREAM ASSOCIATIONS, INC.
IN SUPPORT OF
THE MICHIGAN WILDERNESS HERITAGE ACT OF 1987

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is John P. Forester. I reside in Ludington, Michigan, immediately south of the only area in Michigan's lower peninsula included in this bill for wilderness designation -- the Nordhouse Dunes area.

Although I am here to urge passage of the bill on behalf of a larger constituency, I will speak first as a private citizen with a love for its natural beauty, its pristine quality, its primeval character, its pure air and water, gained in over 60 years of intimate acquaintance, where as Congress stated in the National Wilderness Act of 1964, man and his works do not dominate the landscape, where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled and where man himself is a visitor who does not remain (16USC§1131(c)).

I strongly and fervently urge the setting aside of Nordhouse (and the other Michigan areas) as wilderness to preserve the scenic, aesthetic, scientific, historical, archaeological, recreational, economic and social values, for reasons already advanced to you by the many individuals and state and national organizations who have, like myself, urged Congress to preserve

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at least in part the few remaining small areas of wilderness character in Michigan and, in truth, in the United States.

The Lake Michigan dunes, unique among the world's ecosystems, have been steadily diminished by man's activities, and once destroyed, are irreplaceable. The Nordhouse Dunes area is part of the largest expanse of wind-blown sand dunes on a fresh water lake in the world. Its interdunal wetlands are the largest known, exhibiting great variety in species composition and community structure, sheltering a number of threatened and endangered plant species. It presents several square miles of pre-settlement landscape, in appearance (we are told) very much like Father Marquette saw it when the area was first explored by the French. It is within hours of large urban population centers and offers great opportunities for nature study and recreation to our population. Setting aside this wilderness will protect and enhance Michigan's second largest industry -- the tourist industry. In addition, it is a place where scientific research can expand our rudimentary knowledge of how ecosystems work in nature and without man's intervention, and may thus teach us how to care for the life processes we depend upon for survival.

I speak now as an advocate for a larger constituency. As President of Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc., I represent 151 riparian associations whose combined membership exceeds 20,000. The purpose of Michigan Lake and Stream Associations is the protection and improvement of the quality of water

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in Michigan's lake and streams. On March 8, 1987, its Board of Directors unanimously adopted a resolution urging Congress to pass the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act.

Allow me to quote from a report just released on February 24, 1987 by the Great Lakes and Water Resources Planning Commission of the State of Michigan:

"The future of Michigan depends in large part upon the future of its water endowment. Surrounded by the Great Lakes, rich in inland water resources, and diverse in seasonal character -- the state's economic prosperity and quality of life are closely tied to its special relationship with water.

Water improves the way we live. In fact, the benefits derived from the water resources in the state, however subtle or intangible, greatly influence the nature of our lives. Michigan's citizens depend upon the Great Lakes, inland surface water, and ground water for drinking water supplies. Industry, agriculture, and tourism flourish in a water rich environment. Water resources provide recreation, renewal, and a deep sense of satisfaction. They shape our surroundings and our experiences. And they maintain the ecological balance important to all life. As in the past, water will continue to be essential to the state's identity.

Michigan has made significant progress in some water management areas, and there are important opportunities for future development of the Great Lakes, inland surface water, and ground water resources. However, a number of emerging problems indicate

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that there has been a change in the condition of the water resources in the state. Human health and natural systems are threatened by significant amounts of toxic chemicals in the Great Lakes, conflicts occur over inland water supplies, and rainfall itself has increased in potentially harmful acidity. More than half of all the wetlands in the state have been lost to development. Flooding threatens damages of tens of millions of dollars a year to private and public property. Even aesthetic and recreational values have declined in some areas.

All of this points to a future in which the economic value and unique quality of life in Michigan may change. While the abundance and quality of water serve as powerful incentives for investment in the state, development which limits or degrades water resources will discourage future prosperity. Although the amenities of water still abound, the unique nature of Michigan's environment may be transformed over time into something far less desirable."

The latest scientific findings based upon studies by Professor John A. Cherry, Director of the Institute for Ground Water Research, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, published in the most recent issue of the Journal of Water Resources Research, are that once contaminated with hydrocarbons, it will require from 2,000 to 12,000 years of pumping to purge a polluted acquifer.

By enacting this bill into law, Congress as a steward of our resources, can declare by example that the watersheds in these wilderness areas will not become sources of pollution of the precious waters which flow through, under and adjoin them.

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS, FAMILY FARMS AND ENERGY

H.R. 148 — MICHIGAN WILDERNESS HERITAGE ACT

Testimony of

The Honorable James J. Blanchard
Governor
State of Michigan

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to express my support for the passage of H.R. 148, the proposed Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act.

My support for this legislation dates back to 1980, when, as a member of Congress, I supported previous versions of H.R. 148. I strongly believe that this legislation will promote the best interests of Michigan's economy and environment and is needed to maintain Michigan's tradition of wise natural resource policy.

It is important to note that no careful analysis of the areas proposed for wilderness designation in H.R. 148 has suggested a substantial adverse impact on the economy of Michigan. The U.S. Forest Service RARE II environmental impact statement concluded that less than 10 jobs would be lost in Michigan through designation of several of these areas. It made no effort to calculate whether additional jobs would be created from the potentially increased tourism associated with wilderness designation. In addition, at my request, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has analyzed the specific areas contained in H.R. 148 and found little commercial timber potential. The MDNR supports this legislation.

I am convinced it is possible to accelerate timber harvest while setting aside these wilderness areas in Michigan. Michigan's national forest resource, and its overall forest resource, is vast. Areas not included in H.R. 148 have much untapped commercial potential and my forest products target industry program is aimed at stimulating that potential. Only about 3% of Michigan's national forest acreage, less than .5% of our commercial forest land, would be affected by this bill, leaving vast areas for job creation.

This legislation is in Michigan's environmental interest as well. Michigan contains approximately 2.7 million acres of national forest lands, the most of any state east of the Mississippi. None of these areas are currently protected formally as wilderness. And, with the exception of Isle Royale National Park and other remote islands in the Great Lakes, only about 25,150 acres of Michigan's total federal land base, including acreage administered by the Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are formally protected as wilderness.

It is impossible to contend that none of the 2.7 million acres of national forest lands in Michigan possess wildnerness characteristics. Many of the areas proposed in H.R. 148 would, in fact, be outstanding additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Nordhouse Dunes, for example, is a rare remaining stretch of undeveloped Lake

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Michigan shoreline with wide, sandy beaches. It has outstanding dune formations, with grass, oak, pine, and hardwood forests serving as a textbook example of plant succession. Congressional action to protect all of the areas proposed in H.R. 148 is necessary to guard a natural legacy for future generations of Michigan and the United States.

I acknowledge fears that wilderness designation will somehow prevent uses such as hunting, fishing, and trapping. I am keenly interested in assuring that these uses are protected and preserved. Such uses are an important part of our quality of life in Michigan and contribute much to our economy. While the Wilderness Act itself is clear that wilderness designation does not affect these uses, I support responsible steps to clarify the intent of Congress in this regard.

Michigan has an outstanding tradition of conservation leadership. It also features a virtually unparalleled assortment and quality of natural resources. It is fitting that additional Michigan areas be included within the National Wilderness Preservation System for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of all of our citizens. The enactment of H.R. 148 will allow Michigan to continue and enhance its tradition and ensure that wilderness will be preserved as part of the heritage with which we endow our children and grandchildren.

I commend the Honorable Dale Kildee, sponsor of H.R. 148, for his leadership in sponsoring and seeking enactment of this historic legislation. I encourage your favorable review and action on H.R. 148, the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act.

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Statement of

Congressman David E. Bonior

on

H.R. 148

The Michigan Wilderness Bill

March 18, 1987

Mr. Chairman, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee I want to thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today. I am here to express my strong support for the Michigan Wilderness Bill, H.R. 148. I have supported this legislation since it was first introduced in the 96th Congress and I want to thank my Michigan colleague, Dale Kildee, for the energy he has put into getting the Michigan Wilderness Bill back on Congress' legislative agenda.

This legislation passed the House in the 99th Congress, but unfortunately was not considered by the Senate. This bill will designate federal land in our state, currently part of the National Forest System, as wilderness, preserving it from certain development activities. Wilderness is one of the multiple uses of forest lands defined by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. But even before this Congress recognized the value of wilderness by establishing the Wilderness Act of 1964 mandating the Forest Service to inventory their lands and recommend additions to the National Wilderness System, established by the Act.

This process, the U.S. Forest Service's "Roadless Area Review and Evaluation," called "RARE " was completed in the early 1970's. Unfortunately, the Forest Service, the timber industry, and even environmentalists considered the "RARE" process inadequate For this reason the Forest Service conducted another review, called "RARE II," in the late 1970 s, and from this process we have today's wilderness proposals.

"RARE II" was intended to speed up the wilderness review process. However, in drawing the boundaries for wilderness lands, a debate ensued over lands managed as wilderness though not yet legislated as wilderness that the timber industry considered ripe for harvest This led to a four year stalemate over what has become known as "release language." This was simply language added to legislation which outlined for the Forest Service how it was to manage remaining de facto wilderness.

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Fortunately, release language has been developed, and beginning late in the 98th Congress, new state wilderness bills began to be passed. With this effort, Michigan can now join the over 20 other states that have asked Congress to set aside land in their states as wilderness.

H.R. 148 include approximately 90,000 acres of national forest land in Michigan. This represents roughly three percent of the 2.7 million acres of national forest land in the state, and a very small fraction of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' estimate of 17.5 million acres of forested lands in the state.

Yet within these confines are some of Michigan's finest remaining wildlands. Sylvania is a popular summer and winter vacation spot which draws extensively from the urban recreationalist crowd of Milwaukee and Chicago. Sylvania is teaming with eagles and waterfowl, otters, and within it stands Michigan's largest red pine.

The McCormick tract is a recent addition to the National Forest System and has been managed as de facto wilderness since the late 1970's. It is one of the few remaining stands of virgin hemlock and white pine in the state. It is also the site of on-going integrative forest studies research by many of the state's acclaimed ecologists. The Nordhouse Dunes included many endemic and threatened plant species, and the Sturgeon River Gorge is simply breathtaking. It's Sugar Mountain, which is outside the wilderness designation of the Gorge, rises 500 feet above the river, and within the wilderness area, its walls rise 300 feet, with 200 foot verticle sandstone cliffs.

It is my understanding that forest industrialists and environmentalists in the state have agreed to support this legislation. I think that this is vital because although the wilderness designation will prohibit road construction, off-road vehicles and logging, it is still a multi-use philosophy which restricts as little as possible, while maintaining a primary goal to preserve a unique ecosystem intact.

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While some have argued that these areas should merely be trusted to administrative management, let me remind you that it was Congress which established the Wilderness System in 1964, recognizing the need for special stewardship of these national treasures--a stewardship set forth in federal law. These eleven Michigan areas are deserving of this special stewardship and will bring new examples of unique ecosystems into the National Wilderness Preservation System. Among them are Great Lakes sand dunes, North country riparian systems and inland lake complexes.

What will be permitted in the wilderness? I think this is a useful question. Hunting, fishing, trapping, backpacking----and other non-motorized recreational activities; U.S. Forest Service fire control, insect and disease control and medical evacuations; mineral and oil and gas exploration for companies with subsurface rights, if they agree to proceed in a manner compatible with the preservation of wilderness. Clearly, this land will not be locked up. On the contrary, it will be available for generations to come.

So then, one may ask, why wilderness? Henry David Thoreau once said "In wilderness is the preservation of the world." Wilderness is a social and philosophical concept of the American heritage. Our forefathers plunged into the depths of the wilderness at Jamestown. They tamed it to give them sustenance in their quest to establish a new home on this wild continent. We must preserve wilderness areas so that we can be reminded of the challenges that were overcome by our predecessors to make our country great.

Mr. Thoreau also said "We can never have enough nature." I couldn't agree more. Today we seek to preserve one quarter of one percent of my state. If I had any complaint at all with H.R. 148 it would be that this bill does not seek to preserve enough.

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H.R. 148

MICHIGAN WILDERNESS BILL

Testimony of Congressman Paul B. Henry

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony before the Subcommittee in support of H.R. 148, the Michigan Wilderness Bill.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, we came "within a whisker" of getting this bill through both the House and Senate during the last Congress. I was pleased to have testified in strong support of the bill in the 99th Congress, and I am similarly pleased to be able to express my support for the bill today.

The question of whether we should preserve portions of our natural resource heritage always requires us to strike a balance, between competing interests, between competing concerns. I believe the Michigan Wilderness Bill strikes the proper balance between "wilderness" preservation and other uses of our national forest lands. There are legitimate reasons for opening up some of our forest land to forestry and other resource development, and to other types of recreational uses. There is also the need to preserve some of that land as wilderness. The area this bill sets aside amounts to less than 3% of the national forest land in Michigan, the remaining 97% remains open to other uses.

Secondly, there is a need to balance the preservation of surface areas of beauty and natural uniqueness which will never be replaced if we lose them, with the private property rights of those who own the sub-surface mineral rights, particularly in the Nordhouse Dunes area. I believe that the bill as passed by the House last year, together with the additional clarifying language

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in the Interior Committee Report, properly protected not only those private property rights, but just as importantly, the owners' ability to exercise those rights. I would urge the Subcommittee to maintain both the bill language and the Committee Report language from last year's bill.

In 1984, the people of our state overwhelmingly approved an amendment to the State Constitution to provide that a portion of the funds which the State receives from mineral development on State lands be used to purchase new public land, prime forest lands and parklands for the recreational enjoyment of the public. By so doing, even at a time when the State was just emerging from a period of very dire economic times, they clearly indicated that the preservation of a portion of the abundance and beauty of our state's natural resources is a priority to the people of our state. H.R. 148 is certainly consistent with this expression of support for the preservation of public lands.

In summary, I believe H.R. 148 is necessary to protect a portion of Michigan's irreplaceable natural resources, and strikes a proper balance between the preservation of resources and the legitimate concerns of those holding property rights and other economic interests. I urge the Subcommittee to favorably report the bill, and I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to testify on behalf of this legislation.

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